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THE TIMES

30p

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FRIDAY APRIL 26 1996

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The Irish stadium band drown **David Sinclair** in sticky sentiment
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THE GIRL IN GOAL
Rachel Brown makes history as the youngest FA Cup Final player
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Lives spared by detonation failure

Bridge bombs were IRA's biggest ever

By Michael Evans and Stewart Tendler

TWO Semtex bombs that failed to go off under Hammersmith Bridge on Wednesday night were the biggest ever planted by the IRA on mainland Britain.

The planned Easter Rising anniversary "spectacular" — *using 30 to 40lb of Semtex* — would have blasted the structure of the west London bridge and threatened the lives of hundreds of residents in nearby flats had the detonators worked properly.

Yesterday, as urgent checks were made on other bridges, the Government and police were studying the implica*tions of the IRA's apparent* intention of causing such a massive explosion in advance of the Northern Ireland elections on May 30.

John Major warned Sinn Fein once again to have "no truck" with violence and said that unless the bombings stopped, it would be barred from the all-party peace talks *starting on June 10.*

Scotland Yard said that the Hammersmith bomb was designed to kill, maim and cause huge damage to the suspension bridge as well as transport chaos. One expert said that had the IRA placed the explosives along the main cable, the whole structure would have collapsed.

At first, police investigating two minor explosions at the *south end of the bridge as*sumed that the IRA had planted a small device, similar to that which exploded in the Boltons, South Kensington, last week. That contained half a pound of Semtex.

However, Scotland Yard said yesterday that between 30 and 40lb of the Czech-made commercial high explosive *had been found in two brief*case-sized wooden boxes on the unlit towpath. The detonators had exploded, but the Semtex had failed to ignite.

Much larger devices have been planted and exploded — including the Docklands bomb in February and the one at Bishopsgate in the City *exactly three years ago* — but *they were largely constructed* from home-made, fertiliser-based explosives.

Wednesday's attack, on the anniversary of the *Easter Ris*ing in Dublin on April 24, 1916, came after a new warning from senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers to chief constables this week that the IRA was concentrating on mainland attacks.

However, even the RUC *was shocked by the size of the* device. "Normally the IRA don't like to waste so much Semtex in one device," one Ulster security expert said.

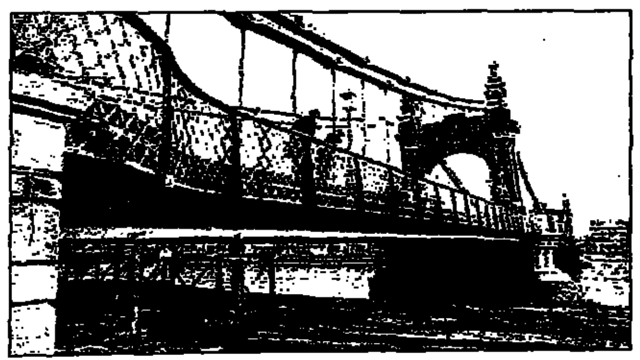
It also suggested that the IRA may have a large amount of Semtex stored on the mainland, having continued rearming throughout the 17-month ceasefire.

Security sources said the bomb was likely to have been the work of one or two men with only adequate bomb-making skills. Even if the detonators had worked efficiently and set off the explosives, the position of the bomb would have meant that some of the blast would have dissipated.

Security sources said they did not believe that the attack meant that the most extreme members of the Provisional *IRA Army Council had reject*ed the political path pursued by Sinn Fein. Rather, IRA leaders believed that bomb explosions played a valuable part in pressuring the Government to offer political concessions.

They may have taken comfort from the fact that within days of the Docklands bomb *in February,* which killed two people and caused more than £100 million of damage, John Major announced the date for *all-party talks.*

Bridge bombers, page 7



Hammersmith Bridge: bombs were on the towpath

MARC ASPLAND

Jonathan Jones celebrating his freedom with Cheryl Tooze yesterday after being cleared of killing her parents

Release a 'victory for love and truth'

By Carol Midgley

JONATHAN JONES, the businessman jailed for murdering his girlfriend's parents, was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday after three judges took five minutes to decide that the convictions were *unsafe.*

Cheryl Tooze, his partner of 15 years who had fought a long and dedicated campaign to prove *his innocence*, ran to the dock and kissed him through the iron bars as the decision was announced. She said she would fight on to find whoever *did* shoot Harry and Megan Tooze at their farmhouse in Llanharry, Mid Glamorgan, in July 1993.

Mr Jones, 36, who had sat pale and gaunt throughout the four-day hearing, closed his *eyes and slumped in his seat* as Lord Justice Rose said: "This court is of the clear view that these convictions are un*safe for reasons which we* shall give on a future occasion. Accordingly, the convictions will be quashed and the defendant will be discharged."

Outside the court, Mr Jones said that he was furious at an announcement by South Wales police that they would not be launching a fresh investigation into the murders, adding: "We will be *pressing for a continuation of* these investigations by a competent authority."

Miss Tooze, who now hopes *to start a family and may even* go back to live at the farmhouse which is at present being rented out, said that the judge's ruling was a victory for love and truth.

"My confidence in Jonathan never faltered. I'm absolutely delighted. It has been a long fight but my fight is not over yet. I have got Jonathan released. My intention is to *carry on and find out who* killed my parents.

"I think the legal system has an awful lot to answer for".

Miss Tooze said that her reward of £25,000 for informa-

Continued on page 3, col 6

Three new CJD cases found in commuter town

By Jeremy Laurance, Joanna Bale and Peter Foster

THREE *people* have developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in a Kent town where BSE, "mad cow" disease, was *first identified.*

Two of the victims, from Ashford, are men aged 29 and 36, and a brain biopsy has confirmed that one is suffering from the new variant of CJD which has been linked with BSE in beef. The third victim, a woman aged 59, is thought to have the form of CJD that affects older people.

The two men bring to 14 the total of confirmed and suspected cases of the new variant of CJD which triggered a Europe-wide scare over British beef. The new variant affects the young; the other form is rare in people under 40. A fourth patient from the area, a 29-year-old woman solicitor from Canterbury, *died of CJD last month.*

Barry Baker, 29, a father of two, from High Halden, near Tenterden, has been in hospital for the past three months. Before his condition was recognised, he was treated at the mental health unit of the William Harvey hospital. Mr Baker, a self-employed woodcutter, is now in a different *part of the hospital and his* condition is said to be very poor. His partner, Esther, declined to comment yesterday. The couple have two daughters aged five and two.

The other male suspected CJD sufferer is Graham Brown, 36, a fireman from Ashford who has been cared for by his sister and her husband. Colleagues at Maidstone Fire Station said Mr Brown, "Hovis" to his workmates, was a member of the *station's Red Watch.*

It was Colin Whitaker, an Ashford veterinary surgeon, who diagnosed the first case of *BSE in cattle in 1985.*

Legal challenge, page 2

NatWest fined by watchdog

National Westminster Bank has been fined £75,000 with costs of £45,000 by *the City* regulator responsible for fund managers on two charges of breaking rules relating *to its tax-free* Personal Equity Plan business, which has 70,000 customers.................Page 25

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Shops hope for VAT bonanza

By Jon Ashworth

SHOPS and discount stores selling goods on interest-free credit could be free to reclaim up to £5 billion in overpaid VAT, after a landmark ruling in the Court of Appeal. The case covers everything from washing machines to carpets, and could start a discount war among store chains.

Customs & Excise plans to appeal to the Lords against the ruling, which covers goods sold on interest-free credit from the day VAT was introduced on April 1, 1973. Shop*pers will not be able to seek* discounts on goods paid for.

Blow to Customs, page 2

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Sail across the Channel for half price, in **Weekend**

What Labour would mean for your money, in **Weekend Money**

32 pages of home style and inspiration, in the **Magazine**

Cup hero wins ball back after 30 years' extra time

By Bill Frost

A *much-scuffed English* soccer icon of questionable provenance is set to come bouncing home after a 30-year exile in a far-flung corner *of a foreign field.*

Rival tabloids were engaged in a bidding war last night for possession of the ball which Geoff Hurst slid past the West German goalkeeper three times in the World Cup Final at Wembley in 1966.

The Sun showed early promise but in the second half of the day the *Daily Mirror* appeared to gain supremacy with a reported offer of £80,000 for a talisman that fans hope will restore the fortunes of the England side.

Having scored a hat-trick in the 4-2 final, Hurst was the ball's official guardian. However, he failed to notice that his *prize had been taken from the* field by the West German striker, Helmut Haller.

Yesterday Herr Haller, *after much badgering from* the British media, agreed to give us back our icon.

However, doubts have been raised over the *ball's* provenance, with at least two serious contenders in the frame and a host of substitutes waiting on the bench.

Herr Haller had previously told the press that the ball was lost. Yesterday he said that it had lain neglected in the cellar of his son, Jürgen.

Urged on by *The Sun* and then the *Daily Mirror*, he agreed to hand the ball over in return for a donation to a children's cancer charity.

"British people have been pestering me. They have been phoning me for the past three days, saying that the ball belonged to England," he said from his Augsburg home.

Mr Hurst himself, yesterday the property of *The Sun* for a reported £2,500, is convinced the ball is his. "It's a custom when you score a hat-trick in a game, certainly in *the World Cup Final, to keep* the ball," he said.

Herr Haller said yesterday that after the final he stuffed the ball up *his shirt.* For 30 years he believed that a local businessman had lost it while he had the ball on loan.

He said he had been confused over the ball's fate. He divorced his first wife and Jürgen went to live with her.

Jürgen, 34, said: "It was hard to part with it because it was a personal memento, but last night I decided to give it to my father."

Leading article, page 21

Jürgen Haller yesterday with the disputed ball

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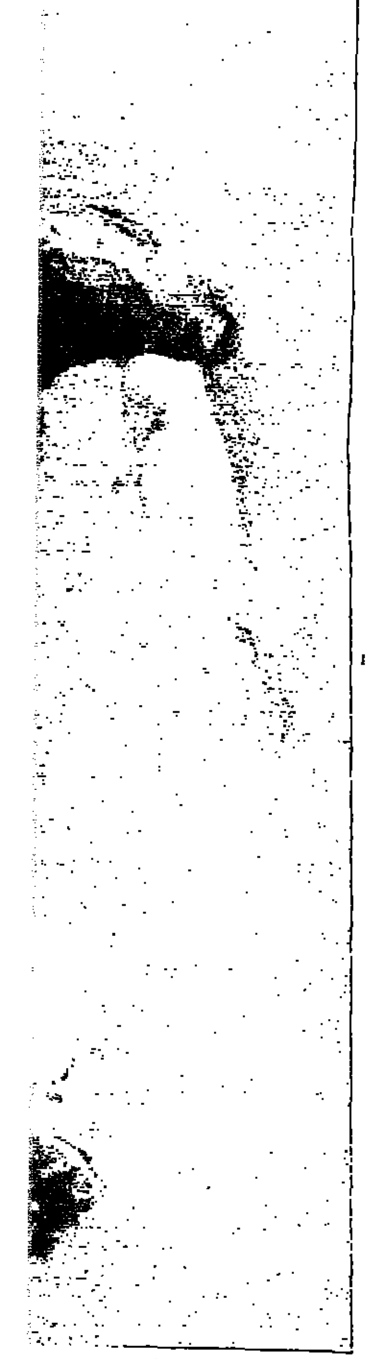

Prague yesterday

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Playground sneer exposes head prefect

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Perhaps for the first time since he became a national figure, Tony Blair conducted himself in the Commons yesterday in a way that looked shabby. It was a gift which the Prime Minister *managed to turn, but only* partially, to his advantage.

The Labour leader chose to sneer at John Major on the defeat the previous night of part of the Government's Divorce Bill.

A coalition of MPs, including four members of the Cabinet, had voted to extend the "cooling off" period in certain divorces. The Tories had permitted their MPs a "free vote" on this, as it was an issue of conscience.

Mr Blair used his questions to the Prime Minister to mock. His assault foundered, though on television it may have looked more impressive.

Decrying the Divorce Bill reverse, the Labour leader asked when the Prime Minis*ter was going to* "talk tough" with his Cabinet.

Sir Edward Heath's face as Blair repeated his taunts about the free vote was a picture of derision.

It would be interesting to subject Blairian prose over the past two years to the sort of computer analysis that literary scholars use to delve into Shakespeare's psyche.

Whenever contested, Blair is given to interjecting "look!" (as in "look here") into his speech. He is fond of what you might call boss-words. Phrases like "*talk tough*", "*sort out*", "get a grip" — the vocabulary of mastery and control — would be picked up repeatedly by our wordsearch. Blair relishes a high-noon quality and likes his prose to walk tall.

To deride opponents he habitually chooses the vocabulary of weakness, indiscipline, doubt, ambiguity and hesitation. His favourite stick with which to beat the Government is the grown-up version of "cowardy-cowardy custard/ Your legs are made of mustard". It is remarkable how *seldom, and cautiously, he* chooses instead to argue that the Government is *wrong*.

Likewise with critics within his own party: avoiding the substantive argument, Blair remarks that there is "no going back" — as though his critics' error had been in some way to falter, to fail to face up to the future.

Those whom it would be absurd to call cowards are accused instead of being sick in the head.

It will escape none who has been to boarding school that such are the traits of one of nature's head prefects. We learnt at school that the best way to handle these people is not to cross them, but to give them more rope and wait. Fate is perhaps waiting to give Mr Blair furlongs more.

John Major has almost the opposite problem, as yesterday's *exchange showed. He* had a good case, a moral case, and a simple one: that free votes for MPs on matters of conscience were *something* a Prime Minister should be proud to allow.

He could have stated this crisply, as if to some sanctimonious whippersnapper whose below-the-belt punch had failed ludicrously. Instead Mr Major became tremendously indignant.

He railed against Mr Blair as might a child who had been falsely accused by an adult. On and on he went, his voice almost breaking with righteous anger by the end.

Though noisily supported throughout by the government benches, the Prime Minister's *case did not grow stronger by* its ever more strident repetition.

Such was his irritation that one began to *wonder whether* Blair might not be right after all to suspect a cock-up.

The Prime Minister won; but, for a man with the steely core that Major possesses, it is odd how often he chooses to plate it in tin.

Chances of early tax cuts are dented by court ruling on VAT

By Jon Ashworth

SHOPS that have sold goods on interest-free credit could *reclaim up to £5 billion in* VAT after a landmark ruling in the Court of Appeal yesterday. It held that Customs and Excise *has been wrong in* charging tax on interest-free deals.

An appeal will be made to the House of Lords but, if yesterday's judgment is upheld, it would limit further the Chancellor's scope for tax cuts before the general election. A bill of £5 billion is the equivalent of 3p on income tax.

The ruling covers the difference between the amount nominally charged for goods bought under interest-free credit and the amount the retailer actually receives. For instance, a shopper buying a sofa interest-free for £480 would pay by instalments to a finance company. The com*pany would keep about £30 to* cover interest charges and pay £450 to the retailer.

Until yesterday retailers *paid VAT on the full amount*, including the £30. Yesterday's ruling accepted that they should pay VAT only on the £450 and were entitled to be reimbursed for money they had paid in the past, dating back to the introduction of VAT in 1973.

The case was brought by the Kingsway Furniture Group, parent company to Primback Ltd, which is in liquidation but which will now receive a backpayment of £2.75 million. Customs said that other claims would have to wait for *the House of Lords* appeal, which is unlikely to be heard before next year.

However, tax specialists *said retailers would be free to* reclaim surplus VAT immediately. Individual shoppers will not be able to seek extra *discounts on goods already* paid for. The real benefit would come in future months, when lower VAT charges would be passed on to the consumer.

Peter Jenkins, VAT partner in the accountants Ernst & Young, said: "It is a massive reversal for Customs, and means, in effect, that retailers can claim back to 1973. This is another large case that they have lost."

Hugh Mainprice, one of the country's leading VAT experts who heads the firm responsible for the victory, said: "Although the decision was based on the sale of furniture it has established a precedent for a large range of consumer durables, including cameras, household goods such as washing machines and cookers, cameras, carpets, cars and other goods offered for sale on interest-free credit terms."

The Retail Credit Research Group said that interest-free credit accounted for 17 per cent of its members' sales, or some £2.1 billion.

Man with insider's view

By Jon Ashworth

HUGH MAINPRICE helped to draft many of the rules that proved the undoing of Customs and Excise.

He began his career in the colonial legal service, helping with the second prosecution of Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya. He joined Customs and Excise in 1966 and, as senior legal assistant, drafted much of the initial VAT legislation.

Mr Mainprice, 68, of Bayswater, London, set up his own practice a year before introduction of VAT on April 1, 1973. Mainprice & Company has represented more VAT tribunal case appellants than any other. His daughter Clare, a barrister, works for him.

RUSSELL BOYCE

Douglas Hogg, Agriculture Minister, leaving a Cabinet meeting yesterday

Farmers win legal right to challenge global beef ban

By Philip Webster in London and Charles Bremner in Brussels

FARMERS won approval yesterday for a legal challenge to the European Union's worldwide ban on British beef amid fresh doubts over whether the Government will be able to secure its early lifting.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, insisted in the Commons that Britain's latest plan to slaughter up to 42,000 *more cows will only be carried* out if there are clear indications that the ban will be eased. But Brussels gave notice that it would not be bound by any "preconditions" on the lifting of the ban, and British government sources contin*ued to downplay the likeli*hood of anything more than a possible easing of the ban at Monday's meeting of farm ministers.

While Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, called the proposals a step in the right direction. Commission officials said that the scheme amounted to "a set of ideas" *rather than a formal plan. In* Germany, officials said Britain's reluctance to commit itself to a bigger slaughter *programme would not win it* much sympathy at the farm council.

Mr Hogg told MPs that the *Government was developing* a "more flexible approach" to selecting cattle. But he stressed he had made clear to *Herr Fischler that he would* only consider implementing the slaughter scheme in the context of the lifting of the ban.

Conservative Euro-sceptics continued their calls for a tougher line against Europe. William Cash called for the *suspension of Britain's* payments to the EU, which he said would not be illegal. "This is purely a cash-flow situation. If Michael Heseltine has said that he paid his own bills late then so can we."

Christopher Gill, a former *farmer and vice-chairman* of the Tory backbench agriculture committee, asked Mr Hogg for an assurance that if the ban was not lifted by the EU next week, he would "assert the authority of this House" by giving instructions *in his department to start* reissuing export licences for British beef to non-EU countries.

Meanwhile a judge gave the NFU and other representatives of the meat industry the go-ahead for an urgent refer*ral of the ban to the* European Court of Justice.

The union won permission to seek a judicial review of Ministry of Agriculture and Customs and Excise refusals to issue health certificates for live animals destined for export and against the decision to withdraw certificates required for the export of the meat of bovine animals *slaughtered in the UK*. The application is in reality a vehicle for the British to seek a European Court ruling against the ban.

Euro 96 hooligans cannot be identified

By Stephen Farrell

DUTCH police are banned from giving British detectives details of football hooligans *they suspect of planning trouble* at the Euro 96 championship, detectives admitted yesterday. Strict privacy laws in The Netherlands forbid the disclosure of personal information about Dutch nationals to other countries.

The restrictions stop them supplying the names and pictures of 47 fans arrested in riots after Holland's match against Germany in Rotterdam on Wednesday night. Two people were stabbed and a state of emergency declared.

Police and security experts played down the implications at a Council of Europe summit held in London yesterday to discuss policing the June tournament. Chief Inspector Lex Heys, of the Dutch football vandalism unit, said his country's *football association was* working with the English FA to ban 300 fans barred from stadiums in Holland.

"*Our Government has a* database of hooliganism over the last five years but we are not allowed to give a large blacklist to other authorities," he said. Chief Inspector Leys, whose Utrecht-based squad is the counterpart of the UK's National Criminal Intelligence Service football unit, added: "We can compensate by sending spotters to identify our hooligans to your police forces and we will do whatever your police ask, such as giving them as much information as we can about the fans' travelling arrangements."

New EU eye test for lorry drivers delayed

The Government is to postpone the introduction of a new European Union eye test for lorry drivers, which critics claim will cost 3,000 people their jobs. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, *said that introduction would be* put back six months to January 1, 1997.

The test will require drivers to have adequate sight in both eyes without glasses or contact lenses, rather than just one eye as now. The Transport Department said the proposed changes were highly complex and the Government needed more time to consider the issues raised. Graham Allen, a Labour transport spokesman, said the decision was "a victory for common sense".

New transport policy paper, page 6

Pupils protest over head

Hundreds of pupils at a grant-maintained school protested when governors reprieved *the head teacher over expenses* claims. Len Brazier, head of the 1,500-pupil Gilberd School in Colchester, Essex, was dismissed for gross negligence in February after an 18-month dispute. A five-hour appeal hearing by five governors overturned the full governing body's decision and reinstated him with a written warning.

Rocket range rejected

The Ministry of Defence's plan to use the Otterburn area of Northumberland National Park for live firings of the Army's *multiple-launch rocket system was rejected by the* county council's policy and resources committee. The decision is expected to be supported by the full council on May 15. The scheme would have involved building new *tracks over the moors and a maintenance depot*.

Peanut butter warning

Children who have a family history of allergies should avoid eating nuts before their third birthday and possibly up to their seventh to avoid the risk of developing a *potentially* fatal reaction, doctors say. Giving peanut butter to infants too soon after weaning may lead to early sensitisation to nuts and a lifetime of serious risk, says Dr Pamela Ewan, writing in the *British Medical Journal*.

Corrupt PC jailed

A policeman was jailed for three years at St Albans Crown Court after offering to lose police files on drink-drivers in return for cash. PC Roger Greene, 32, used Thames Valley Police *notepaper to type letters to accused motorists. He asked for between £300 and £500 to ensure the case went no* further. Greene, of Woodley, Reading, was convicted of five charges of corruption.

Scotland's landed lairds

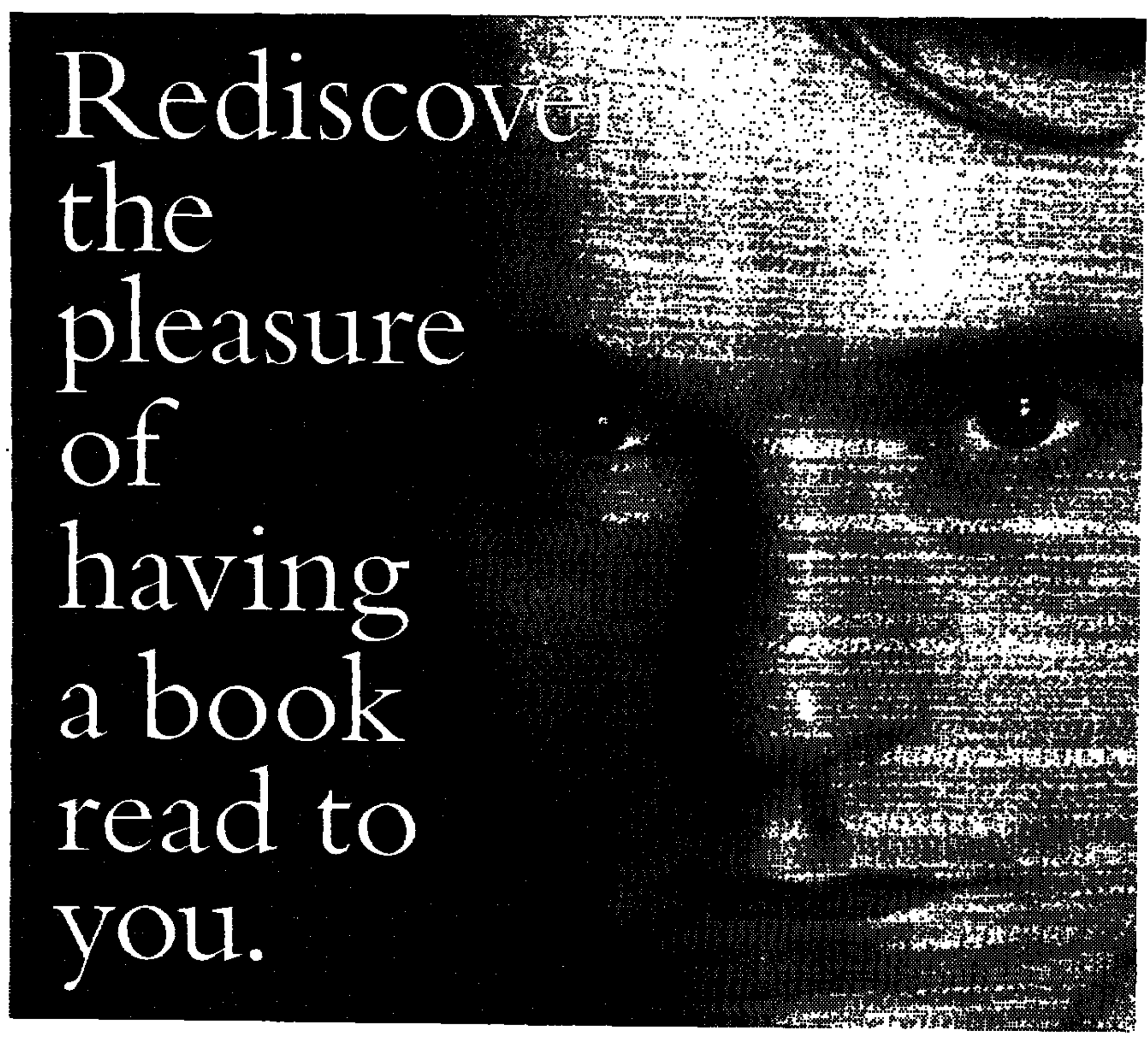
Half of Scotland is owned by 608 people while the number *of foreigners buying large tracts of land in the past 25 years* has increased four-fold, according to a new book, *Who Owns Scotland*, by Andy Wightman, lists the top 100 private lairds. Buccleuch Estates is Scotland's biggest *landowner with 261,600 acres and the National Trust for* Scotland, fourteenth 25 years ago, is in second place.

Tube death demand

A coroner has urged London Underground to tighten safety on old rolling stock following an inquest into the *death of a computer student at Stockwell station*, south London. A jury at Southwark Coroners Court returned a verdict of accidental death after being told that Harish Jadavii Bhardia died when he was dragged down the *tunnel as a train left the station*.

Rattle wins culture prize

The conductor Sir Simon Rattle has won the annual £30,000 Shakespeare Award, whose previous recipients include Graham Greene and Harold Pinter. The Alfred Toepfer Foundation, presenting the prize in Hamburg, noted that Sir Simon had "rejected the jet-set attitudes of many of his colleagues and has remained loyal to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for over 16 years".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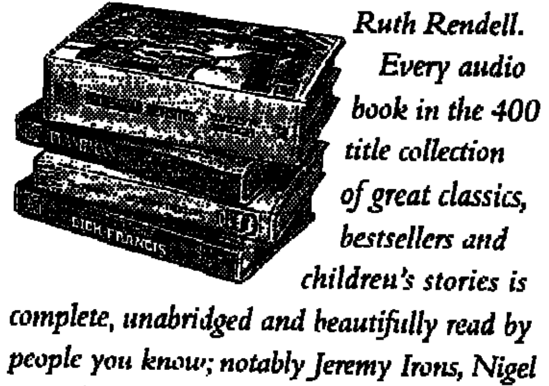

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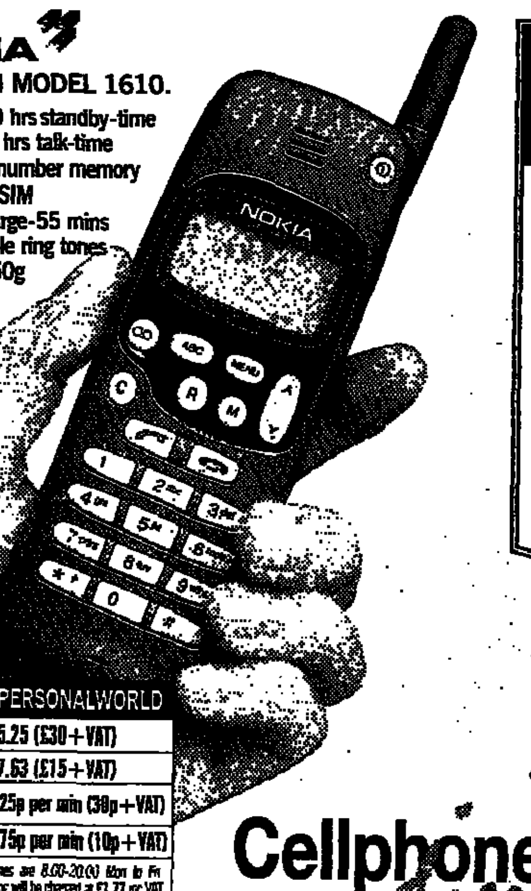

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Suffering of the girlfriend who never gave up

By Carol Midgley and Robert Crampton

THE campaign which yesterday won the freedom of Jonathan Jones has had a devastating effect on his girlfriend. Cheryl Tooze never doubted he was innocent of killing her parents, but the stress of the case has caused continual ailing health.

The arrest of her boyfriend of 15 years, following the trauma of losing her mother and father, led to psychiatric treatment and a series of antidepressants. She has lost more than a stone in weight and has a stomach ulcer. Her hair, which three years ago was long and red, is now cut short and turning grey.

The ill-health has forced Miss Tooze, 36, to give up her work as a market researcher. She lives on invalidity benefit. Friends say she has aged ten years in less than three.

"I really know Jonathan," she said during the legal fight. "I'd say 'Throw away the key' if I thought he'd done it."

She did not believe it when police called at their flat in Orpington, south-east London, to arrest him on December 7, 1993. She did not believe it in May last year when the jury at Newport Crown Court found him guilty, or when the judge called him a pitiless killer. It only strengthened her resolve when members of her family — notably her aunt Cynthia, her father's sister — turned against Jonathan and launched their own counter-campaign, collecting hundreds of signatures to keep him in prison. Miss Tooze, who met her partner when they were students in South Wales, said: "I have not hurt anyone in my life and nor has Jonathan."

She did not attend the original trial last April, as her boyfriend told her not to come. He was so confident of acquittal, his biggest worry was media intrusion. The next day, she began working towards an appeal with his solicitors Stuart Hutton and Layla Attfield, both so convinced of his innocence they gave their initial services free.

Miss Tooze put up a £25,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the killers — part of her £150,000 inheritance which was said to have been Mr Jones's motive for murder. The defence team painstakingly re-examined their case, going back over key alibi witnesses. The breakthrough came when they spoke to lift engineers whom Mr Jones claimed he had seen at 1.30pm in Orpington when he returned home for lunch on the July 23, 1993 — the exact time of the murders.

Originally, the engineers said they were on a break, so he could not have seen them. But a till receipt from a DIY shop in south London, where their supervisor had bought equipment prior to picking them up for lunch, showed their timings could have been up to an hour out. They gave new statements confirming that they may have been wrong about the time and confirmed what Mr Jones claimed he had seen — a man crouching down mixing cement in the entrance hall of the block of flats.

Miss Tooze, who now lives with her boyfriend's parents, Graham and Pauline, in South Wales, has made weekly 5½-hour round-trips to Gartree prison in Leicestershire to see him. They talked of their cat and plans for a holiday. Mr Jones lost more than two stone.

Ms Attfield, his solicitor at Hutton's in Cardiff, said: "We have got to know Jonathan very well. He is very well-spoken, and that has made his life difficult often in prison. He has spoken about some of the beatings he has witnessed between inmates and how it has horrified him."

The 36-year-old market researcher considered suicide after his conviction. He was encouraged to fight on only by his family and Miss Tooze.

Last year, for an interview for *The Times Magazine*, she revisited the isolated farmhouse where her parents were murdered. She recalled: "When I heard they had found the bodies, I felt as if everything had been drained out of me. I packed a case, put custard and jumpers in it, silly things."

She used to have nightmares about her parents. "I dream they are alive and when I wake up they're dead. I dream Jonathan is free, and when I wake up he is in prison."

This morning, at least half the nightmare is over.

Mother and daughter: Megan and Cheryl Tooze

Cheryl Tooze's murdered father Harry, and her mother with Jonathan Jones. An artist's impression, right, was undermined at the appeal

'Victory for love and truth'

Continued from page 1

tion leading to the conviction of the killers still stood.

Mr Jones, who was planning a champagne celebration with Miss Tooze and his father, said that his 17 months in prison had been horrendous and that he felt overwhelming relief.

Mr Tooze, 64, a retired fruit farmer, and his wife, 67, were each shot in the back of the head at their 10-acre smallholding in what was described as a "planned and pitiless execution". Their bodies were hidden in a cowshed and covered with hay bales.

The Crown had claimed that Mr Jones had travelled to the farm and had tea with the couple before shooting them, then drove back to Orpington, Kent, where he shared a flat with Miss Tooze.

But a thorough search of Mr Jones, his clothes and belongings found not a single speck of blood — even though Mr Tooze was said to have suffered such extensive head injuries that the killer would have been "liberally splattered". No witnesses had seen him at the farm that day — he said he was in Orpington 200 miles away — and the prosecution conceded that they could not establish a financial motive for the killing.

The single piece of scientific evidence against him was a partial thumbprint on a china saucer in the Toozes's kitchen. But the Court of Appeal was told that Mr Jones had visited the house many times and could have made the mark at any time.

After Mr Jones was found guilty of the murders at Newport Crown Court last April, Mr Justice Rougiers wrote to the Lord Chancellor's Department expressing his doubts about the convictions.

"I am bound to record that the verdict caused me some surprise," he wrote. "I found myself by the end of the trial thinking that if I were the tribunal of fact, despite many suspicious circumstances, I should be conscious of significant doubt."

Queen's letters fetch £5,000

By Dalya Alberge

THREE letters written by the Queen when she was a young princess were sold yesterday for £5,000. The letters describe how she first met the Duke of Ednıburgh, then a young officer at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1939 when she was 13 and he was 18.

In one letter she wrote: "We had thought about getting married but couldn't and didn't do anything about it till after the South African visit — partly because of going abroad and partly because I wasn't 21." She also talks of being chased by a photographer while out driving in Prince Philip's MG sports car.

The letters were sold by Clevedon Salerooms, near Bristol, to Annette Buckley from Yesterday's World, a street museum in Battle, West Sussex.

Mrs Buckley, 54, who runs the museum near Battle Abbey, expressed delight at her purchase even though it had cost her twice as much as she intended to pay. Their upper estimate was £2,500.

She said: "*I felt I had to have* them, although I am not sure if I would have bid higher."

The letters were addressed to the late Mrs Betty Shew, a former court correspondent, and were passed on to a relative who died recently. The sale proceeds will go to an unnamed religious charity.

Blair aide denies spite campaign against Tory MP

By Russell Jenkins

TONY BLAIR'S senior press aide strongly denied yesterday that he orchestrated a campaign of spite as political editor of the *Daily Mirror* to damage a Conservative backbencher.

Alastair Campbell told the High Court that he was not involved in preparing or writing about an early day motion critical of Rupert Allason, MP for Torbay. He said that, at the time he is alleged to have been touting for signatures from Labour MPs in the members' lobby, he was deep in discussion with John Major's press secretary, Gus O'Donnell, high in one of the Palace of Westminster's towers. He said it would have been impossible for him to have been seen by the Labour MP George Galloway outside the Commons tearoom.

He was giving evidence on the third day of the action brought by Mr Allason against Mr Campbell, the Mirror Group and another journalist, Andy McSmith, for malicious falsehood. Mr Allason has asked for aggravated damages.

He claims that Mr Campbell, as departmental head, was responsible for the story that appeared in the *Mirror* in November 1992 suggesting that 50 MPs had challenged Mr Allason to hand over to Maxwell pensioners the £250,000 he had been reported to have won in libel damages from the *Mirror*.

The Mirror Group strongly denies malicious falsehood, that any malice was involved in the publication of the story and that Mr Campbell was the prime mover behind a fabricated motion. Mr Campbell's deputy, David Bradshaw, said in the witness box that he was the real author.

Charles Gray, QC, for the *Mirror*, complained at the end of the day's proceedings that he no longer knew "how things stand" with Mr Allason's case. The judge, Sir Maurice Drake, instructed Mr Allason to think clearly overnight about what allegations he wanted to put to Mr Campbell.

Earlier Mr Campbell said that the first he knew about Mr Bradshaw's efforts was between 5pm and 6.30, when he was told the "bare bones". He telephoned David Banks, then the Editor of the *Mirror*, to inform him that a motion mentioning the newspaper was being tabled.

Mr Allason pressed the point that Mr Campbell was involved in preparing the story because he admitted knowing about it and had been sufficiently concerned to discuss it with Mr Banks. "You stress the level of concern," Mr Campbell said. "It is a matter of routine to explain to the Editor anything related to the *Mirror*. I don't term 'knowing about' to mean involvement."

Probation chief cries foul over Cantona sentence

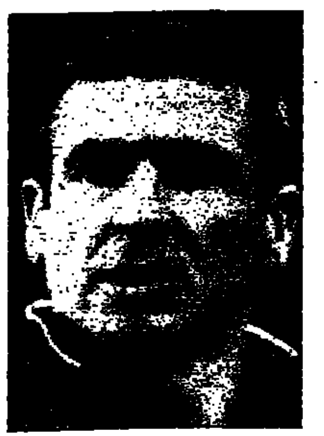
By Richard Ford

THE Chief Inspector of Probation has criticised the community service order imposed on Eric Cantona, the Manchester United footballer, for making him appear a hero. Graham Smith said that punishing the soccer star by allowing him to coach youngsters may have given the impression that such penalties "let criminals off".

He said that the orders were meant to be a burden and to involve a substantial infringement of liberty for the offender. Mr Smith, a former chief probation officer for inner London, added: "It is not an occasion for a defendant to receive additional approval or to further recreational and professional opportunities. It is certainly not for turning people into heroes."

Cantona was sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment for attacking a spectator at Crystal Palace's ground last year, but the jail sentence was replaced with the 120-hour community service order.

Greater Manchester Probation Service arranged for him to coach 720 children after the judge said the footballer should be given work which made use of his skills and helped young people.



Cantona: challenged by service order

Mr Smith said in his annual report: "It appeared an enormously popular sentence: the youngsters themselves gained from it and both the community at large, plus sentencers, appeared delighted with the result." But he added: "The purpose of community service is quite clear: it is involuntary labour containing thoroughly unpleasant features."

Mr Smith's comments angered Greater Manchester Probation Service, whose officials are understood to have been complimented by the inspector on their handling of the case.

Cedric Fullwood, chief probation officer of Greater Manchester, said last night: "We take heart from the assessments being made by the commentators at the moment, which speak of Mr Cantona's rehabilitation and exemplary behaviour. Mr Cantona was greatly challenged by this order, which he successfully completed on time and with no suggestion of further offences."

Community service has been imposed on a number of high-profile offenders. Roger Levitt, the businessman convicted of fraudulent trading, made cuddly toys; Jimmy White, the snooker player, cleaned elderly people's homes after being caught drink-driving; in the United States, the actor Martin Sheen washed dishes in soup kitchens for the poor.

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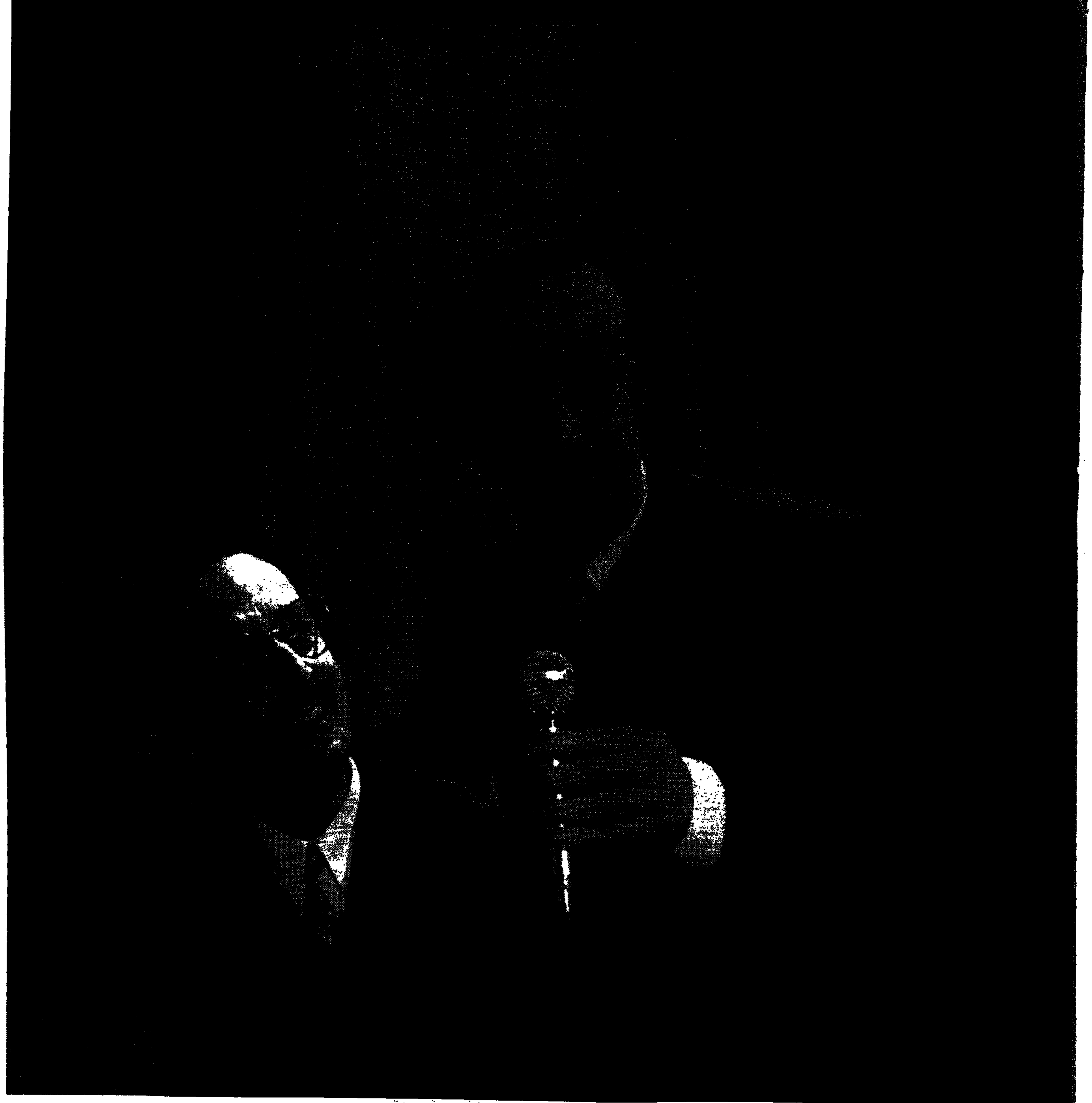

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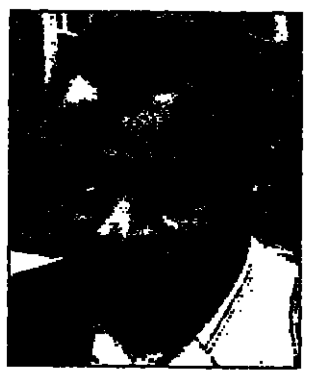
Race murder case fails after judge rules out evidence

By Richard Duce and Lin Jenkins



Neville Lawrence and Stephen, his stabbed son

A RARE private murder prosecution collapsed yesterday after the judge told the dead man's family that the evidence of an important witness was unsafe to be put before the jury.

Family and friends of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence, who have fought for three years to find the people responsible for his death, immediately criticised Mr Justice Curtis's ruling. Stephen's father, Neville Lawrence, said: "I believe in fairness and I don't think what has happened today is fair."

The jury at the Old Bailey was formally ordered to return not-guilty verdicts against three unemployed white men: Neil Acourt, 20, Luke Knight, 19, and Gary Dobson, 20, all from southeast London. They had denied being at the scene when Stephen was stabbed to death near a bus stop in Eltham on April 22, 1993.

The victim's family and friends claimed the ruling showed that black people could not get justice in Britain. They were critical of the original police investigation, claiming that local information should have been acted on sooner. Mr Lawrence, a builder, and his wife took out a private prosecution after the Crown Prosecution Service decided there was not enough evidence to bring to court.

Mr Justice Curtis ruled late on Wednesday that it was unsafe for the evidence of Dwayne Brooks, Stephen's best friend who witnessed the attack, to go before the jury. Mr Brooks had only glimpsed one of the attackers and could not recollect any of their faces.

The collapse of the case meant that the jury never saw a video, produced by police in a covert surveillance operation, which showed the defendants making abusive racial comments and playing with knives. After considering the position overnight, the family's barrister, Michael Mansfield, QC, announced yesterday that he would not be pursuing the case.

Mr Brooks emerged during the case as a sad figure who still lives with the mental scars of his friend's death. He has been diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder but has refused all offers of treatment.

He admitted being driven by thoughts of revenge from the moment Stephen collapsed in front of him. He telephoned for an ambulance rather than the police because he did not trust them. He was interviewed at length by detectives before they accepted that they were dealing with a racist murder.

Before he went to one identity parade he had worked out that he was expected to pick Neil Acourt. On a subsequent parade he picked Luke Knight and later admitted to a police officer that friends had told him to look for "the scruffiest one" because Mr Knight would have spent some time in the police cells.

He went on to change his story four times about who he believed had wielded the knife that killed Stephen. Mr Justice Curtis ruled that Mr Brooks, for whatever reason, "simply doesn't know if he is on his head or his heels" and that his evidence could lead to the danger of conviction on misidentification. "To do so would amount to injustice, and adding one injustice to another does not cure the injustice done to the Lawrence family."

Imran Khan, the Lawrence family solicitor, said later: "We are extremely disappointed with the judge's ruling and would have hoped the identification evidence could be put before the jury — something that happens in nearly every other case. It must be remembered that we would never have been in this position if the first police inquiry into the murder had gathered sufficient evidence."

A spokeswoman for the Crown Prosecution Service, which dropped the original case in July 1993, said: "The result is clearly a disappointment for Mr and Mrs Lawrence. The CPS would like to take this opportunity to once again express our sympathy at their grief following the tragic death of Stephen."

Parents' fight goes on

A THREE-YEAR fight for justice by the parents of Stephen Lawrence will not end with yesterday's acquittals. Lawyers acting for Neville and Doreen Lawrence said that should any new evidence emerge linking someone to the murder of their son they would launch criminal proceedings again.

There is no dispute that a gang of up to six youths were responsible for stabbing their son to death.

The Lawrences resisted attempts by left-wing minority groups to hijack the murder for their own causes. They relied instead on the support of the local community, black and white, to help to fund their search for the killers. Their son's death did, however, become the focus of anti-racist demonstrations.

PHOTONEWS

Neil Acourt, left, and Gary Dobson leaving the Old Bailey after the collapse of the prosecution brought by Stephen Lawrence's parents

Spy film exposed suspects' hatred of blacks

By Lin Jenkins and Richard Duce

Luke Knight leaving the court yesterday

VIDEO surveillance by the police gave a chilling insight into the lives and thoughts of a gang of racist thugs, prime suspects in the Stephen Lawrence case.

In a rare move, detectives put a small box in a flat rented by Neil Acourt after the coroner stopped the inquest because of new evidence. The black box placed near the television was marked "Danger, do not touch".

Those in the flat thought it was a listening device. Indeed, Mr Acourt refused to use the telephone because he thought that was bugged. What the youths did not know was that the box contained a tiny camera that spied on them at intervals over 16 days, recording the extent of their deep-rooted racism and sadistic loathing of the black community.

The youths had spent nearly all their time together since leaving the local comprehensive school for the dole queue. All had grown up on the same council estate in Eltham, southeast London, and were known to the police.

Mr Acourt, Luke Knight, Gary Dobson and their friends expressed such extreme views that their own lawyers admitted that the recording showed, if nothing else, that they were the sort of people who could have murdered Stephen Lawrence for no better reason than because he was black.

Timothy Kendal, for Mr Knight, told the committal hearing at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court, where the video tape was shown last year: "One cannot help but have feelings of repulsion, of horror and of antipathy to those on the video."

Throughout the tape the men are seen smoking cannabis and handling knives. Mr Acourt stabs furniture and the walls and lunges at the others. Before leaving the flat he tucks a knife into his waistband. They watch football and criticise an "English" presenter for supporting Cameroon against a European team. Mr Knight says: "English presenters saying 'Oh yeah, we want Cameroon to win this, why the f*** should he want niggers to win it when they're playing something — like Italy or something like a European f****** team." Mr Acourt says: "You rubber-lipped c***. I reckon that every nigger should be chopped up, mate, and left with nothing but f****** stumps."

Mr Knight then recalls Enoch Powell and his visit to Africa. "He came back here saying they were uncivilised and all that and then they started coming over here and he knew, he knew straight away, he was saying 'No, I don't want them here, no f****** niggers. They'll ruin the gaff', and he was right, they f****** have ruined it."

Mr Acourt concurs. "I wanna write him a letter. Enoch Powell mate, you are the greatest. You are the Don of Dons. Get back into Parliament, mate."

They are shown shouting racist abuse at black people and a Chinese woman in a television advertisement. When discussing the Sports Personality of the Year award, Mr Acourt says: "Bollocks you nigger. A macaroon better not win it, mate."

They also talk about the violence they wish to see meted out to blacks. David Norris, who was charged with murder but had the case dismissed by magistrates, says: "I'd go down Catford and places like that, I'd take one of them, skin the black c*** alive mate, torture him, set him alight."

Three of the five people originally alleged to have killed Stephen Lawrence had previously been acquitted of attacks involving knives.

Mr Acourt and Mr Norris were charged with the attempted murder of Stacey Benfield, a white woman, who was stabbed in the chest in March 1993 in Eltham. They were acquitted at the Old Bailey of a lesser charge after witnesses changed their evidence.

Magistrates also dismissed charges against Jamie Acourt. In another case, he was cleared at Snaresbrook Crown Court last August of wounding a white youth in the chest at a nightclub in Greenwich. He said he acted in self-defence.

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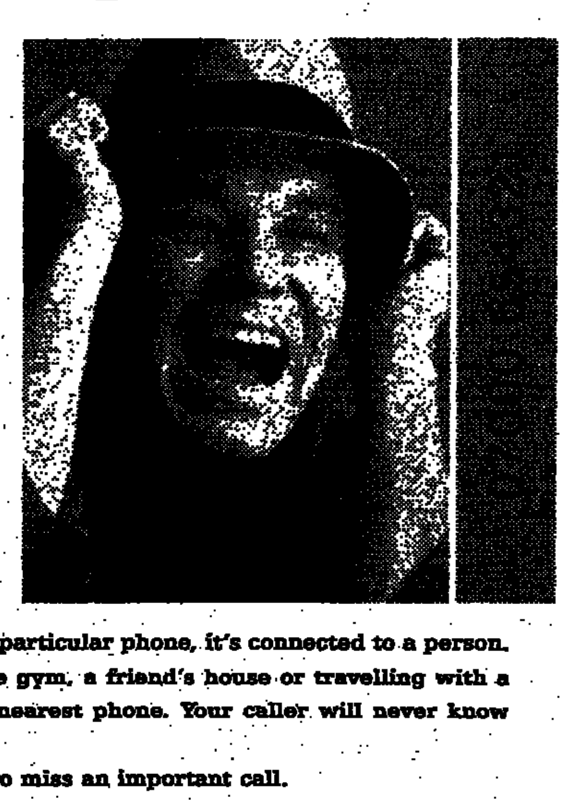

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Drivers could be turned away from city centres

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

PLANS to give local councils the power to limit the number of cars entering town and city centres were unveiled yesterday by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary.

Transport. The Way Forward, the Government's first national transport policy paper for 20 years, discloses that ministers are considering legislation that would give local authorities the right to control traffic entering their areas by issuing permits. The Green Paper says: "Drivers wishing to enter a designated area would need to be in possession of a permit which would be displayed at all times while the vehicle was in the area."

Local authorities could limit the number of permits issued or could levy heavy charges for the permits to deter unnecessary traffic. Another option is legislation allowing local government to introduce schemes that electronically bill vehicles driving in a congested area. However, the technology will take at least five years to develop. Taxing company car spaces is also being discussed but has little support in Whitehall.

The paper says current forecasts of traffic growth "will lead to increasingly severe pressures of congestion and on the environment and ... will not be sustainable indefinitely". The paper also proposes new transport planning powers for local government and sets an official target of doubling the use of bicycles by 2002. This would be achieved through a £2 million national programme of schemes to improve cycling facilities, taking the needs of cyclists into account when planning roads and improving cycle security.

Launching the paper yesterday, Sir George said there had been a perceptible shift in public opinion in favour of protection of the environment and away from road-building.

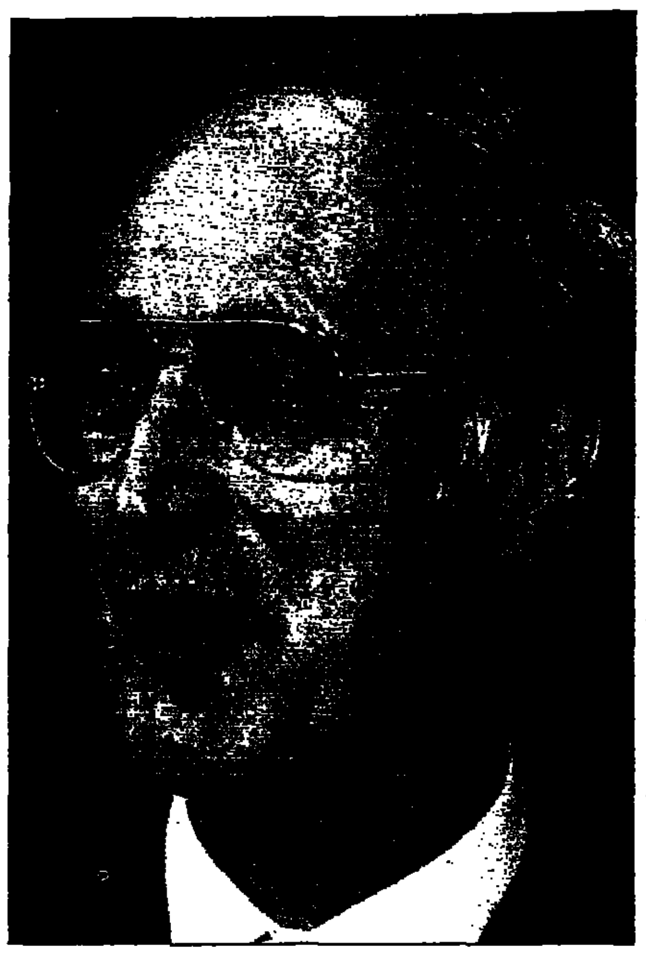
The paper was attacked by green campaigners and the road lobby as an inadequate "wish list" that would do little or nothing to tackle Britain's transport problems.

The RAC said the 137-page document was strong on analysis but "again delays action on the real problems of under-investment, congestion on the roads and genuine car dependence". The Council for the Protection of Rural England said any proposals "will be undermined by the conspicuous failure to take national action to tackle rising traffic levels". Labour criticised the document as "bland, contradictory and hopelessly short on ideas".

The paper is thought to have been the victim of political interference from Brian Mawhinney and Michael Heseltine, forcing Sir George to tone down or drop radical solutions. The publication comes 18 months after Dr Mawhinney, Sir George's predecessor, launched The Great Transport Debate, a series of public discussions on Britain's transport problems.

Friends of the Earth said it was ironic that, as Sir George was unveiling the Green Paper, a meeting of UK Roundtable for Sustainable Development, set up by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, backed a plan to "draw up a national sustainable transport strategy ... based on setting national targets for reducing traffic growth over short and medium-term periods".

Leading article, page 21



Sir George: said there was a perceptible shift in public opinion away from road-building

Tenants unite to demand action against teenage vandals

By Ian Murray

TENANTS from housing estates around the country met yesterday to demand tougher laws to deal with the teenage hooligans they say are bringing fear and despair to their communities.

At a conference in Coventry on "living in fear", delegates representing over a million tenants told how lives were being ruined by delinquent teenage neighbours and called for more support for victims rather than the perpetrators.

Ann Salih, from Stoke-on-Trent, one of the 200 to attend, said: "Every night there are young thugs hanging around, vandalising, terrorising and breaking into properties. The police arrest them and as soon as they get to court they are released and are back out on the streets. People are fed up but are frightened to speak for fear of having their windows smashed and their children beaten up."

Mrs Salih said she had lived on the same estate for 24 years and seen conditions deteriorate rapidly over the past five years. "The vast majority of residents are good neighbours and law-abiding citizens, but we are being intimidated," she said. "My 15-year-old son gets followed around the estate by these thugs because they know I am on the residents' association and am not afraid to stand up and be counted."

The conference agreed to organise a national petition of tenants calling for changes in court procedures to deal with bad neighbours. A lobby of Parliament will press for changes in the Housing Bill, seeking tougher measures against anti-social behaviour and more power for councils to enforce tenancy rules.

The tenants agreed to give evidence to Lord Woolf, who is preparing a report on ways to improve access to justice. They want him to consider setting up panels of specialist judges to deal with cases of bad neighbours and to protect witnesses by allowing them to give evidence anonymously.

Doubt cast on PM's grammar school pledge

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR'S plan for a grammar school in every town was called into doubt yesterday by a champion of selective schools. Margaret Dewar, chairman of the National Grammar Schools Association, will tell its annual conference tomorrow of her "great scepticism" that the Prime Minister's scheme will ever happen.

Mrs Dewar questioned Mr Major's commitment to selective education because of the Government's reluctance to grant permission for the first purpose-built grammar school for 30 years.

Buckinghamshire County Council applied to the Education Department last May for permission to build a grammar school in Milton Keynes, which needs two new secondary schools to cater for rising numbers of pupils. It is still waiting for a decision from Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State.

Mrs Dewar, who is a member of the Conservative-controlled county council, said: "The Tory party's commitment to grammar schools is not looking good. If they are absolutely committed to more grammar schools they will make a decision about Milton Keynes tomorrow. It is an ideal chance to prove they mean what they are saying about a grammar school in every town."

The Times disclosed last month that Mr Major's policy unit was working on manifesto plans for a grammar school in every large town, to be established with the backing of groups of parents and business people. Also, Mrs Shephard said that a White Paper to be published in June would propose allowing schools to select up to 100 per cent of their pupils rather than the present figure of 10 per cent.

Mrs Dewar said: "The Milton Keynes situation makes you wonder how much there is behind the promises. The Government is in a position to show it means business. The Milton Keynes grammar school does not even need funding or a large company to help it because there is a basic need for a school which the council must build.

"I am very sceptical. I wonder whether the Government means what it says about supporting grammar schools and an awful lot of parents want to know as well.

"The Prime Minister makes a sweeping statement about a grammar school in every town but does nothing when he has a real chance. It just seems to be another political football."

Milton Keynes Borough Council, which is dominated by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, believes the new school should be comprehensive. It has been refused leave for judicial review of the county council's plan for a grammar school and its appeal against the refusal will be heard later this month.

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said: "Ministers have agreed that no decision should be made on the proposal until the outcome on the leave to apply for judicial review was known."

Mrs Dewar dismissed this as a weak excuse, adding: "Who runs the country, Milton Keynes Borough Council or John Major?"

Letters, page 21
Education, page 39

Dispute looms over second problem boy

A STRIKE by teachers was averted yesterday when the parents of a disruptive pupil withdrew him from class. Richard Wilding, 13, will stay on the roll at Glaisdale School in Bilborough, Nottingham, but will be taught at a special unit near by and at home, at a cost of £11,700 a year.

The teaching union, NASUWT, said that industrial action was looming over a similar case on South Tyneside, after a head teacher's ban on a disruptive teenager had been overturned by an appeal panel.

Staff at Hebburn Comprehensive have voted in favour of action if they are ordered to teach the youth, but his parents have not yet exercised the right to reinstatement. Eddie McAtominey, a governor, said the boy had twice attacked teachers.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, said the teachers at Nottingham had shown that parents could not choose the school they wanted, regardless of their child's behaviour.

It was disclosed yesterday that Richard Wilding's mother Rita, 34, had been convicted of attacking a council housing officer who called to discuss repairs. Gerald Bunting, 55, suffered serious spinal injuries four years ago, and can walk only with the aid of crutches.

She was ordered to pay him £100 compensation. Mr Bunting retired from work this week.

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Hairdresser foiled IRA bridge bombers 57 years ago

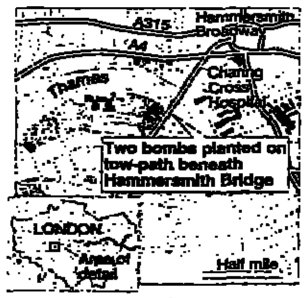
By Michael Horsnell

THE IRA's failed attempt to explode two huge Semtex bombs under Hammersmith Bridge on Wednesday night was its second attack on the 109-year-old structure. The first, on March 29, 1939, was foiled by a hairdresser who saw smoke and sparks coming from the lighted fuse of a bomb.

Maurice Childs, from Chiswick, had been strolling home across London's first suspension bridge early in the morning when he noticed a small leather suitcase. He opened it, saw the fuse and climbed through the structure on to the side of the bridge to throw the bag into the river. The explosion sent up a 60ft column of water.

Mr Childs was appointed *an MBE for his* courage. Shortly after his intervention a device in a second suitcase went off, causing girders on the west side of the bridge to collapse and shattering windows in houses several hundred yards away.

Maurice Childs noticed the bomb in a suitcase and threw it in the river. Right, London County Council engineers inspect the damage caused by a second explosion



Engineers from London County Council found the suspension chains and stiffening girder of the upstream side of the bridge to have been seriously damaged. Police were posted on all bridges across the river but the Boat Race was allowed to pass under Hammersmith Bridge two days later.

Eddie Connell and William Browne, both 22, were tried and convicted at the Old Bailey in May that year. Connell was sentenced to 20 years for planting the bombs, and Browne was jailed for ten years for hijacking a car and driving Connell to the scene.

The Hammersmith bridge was built by William Tierney Clarke between 1824 and 1827, but was replaced between 1883 and 1887 at a cost of £88,964. The successor, designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, was opened by Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, on June 18, 1887, accompanied by a guard of honour from the 4th Queen's Royal West Sussex Regiment.

As long ago as August 1908 fears were voiced about its ability to bear the weight of motorbuses and there were rumours that it was sagging in the centre, but several tests with spirit levels proved it to be in excellent condition. The deck girders were replaced between 1973 and 1976 and its most recent repainting — in its original colours of gold and green, on the advice of English Heritage — was completed last year. The £1 million redecoration, paid for by the Environment Department, used 1,200 tonnes of grit for sandblasting and 22,000 litres of paint.

A weight limit of 7.5 tonnes was imposed in 1991 by Hammersmith Borough Council, which has responsibility for the bridge. It carries more than 30,000 vehicles a day and is one of London's 23 river crossings.

The area around the bridge, which is a favoured vantage point for Boat Race spectators, attracts thousands of people to its riverside bars, restaurants and water-sports clubs.

Make beef a rare treat, doctors say

MEDICAL BRIEFING

WHETHER a fondness for well-done steaks and barbecues could be a cause of ill health in cattle farmers, and possibly even hasten their end, was considered at a meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research.

The latest research, announced at the meeting by doctors from the US National Cancer Institute, compared the death rate from stomach cancer in those who liked their beefsteak red and rare to those who ate it well done. The scientists studied the way more than 600 American farmers cooked their beef and how often they ate it. Their research confirmed earlier work which showed that well-cooked steaks were more carcinogenic than rare steak. Research a few years ago demonstrated that the almost burnt but delicious bits from the bottom of the oven pan were particularly hazardous.

Farmers who had beef every day had twice the instance of stomach cancer than those who had it only once a week. It was suggested that the safest form of beef from the carcinogenicity aspect was the traditional roast, always provided, presumably, that the farmer didn't scavenge the bottom of the roasting pan for tasty morsels or use the juices for gravy. Very well done beef — grilled, fried or burnt on a barbecue — seems to carry the greatest risk of cancer.

This US research coincided with a scientific paper by Professor Tim Oliver, of St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Medical School, on the eating habits of men who developed prostatic cancer. Professor Oliver said that men who enjoyed liberal portions of animal fat, meat and dairy produce had an increased chance of developing cancer of the prostate, whereas those who ate large quantities of carrots and green vegetables had a lesser risk. Whatever the chosen diet, it was unwise to become overweight.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

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Male bastion falls in the capital but they're still fighting for equality on the beaches

Oldest Rotary Club in Britain votes to admit women

By Michael Horsnell

ANOTHER refuge of male supremacy has fallen after an overwhelming vote by members of the Rotary Club of London to open its doors to women. Thousands of Rotarians throughout the country, who have long defied demands for such reform, are now expected to face growing pressure to follow the lead of the oldest and biggest of the 1,799 clubs in Britain.

At the third attempt in recent years, members of the London club, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is an honorary member, voted by 59 to 11 at a lunch at the Portman Hotel to end men-only membership. Neville Shulman, the theatrical figure and writer who led the move for reform, said after a heated debate earlier this week: "We would have been ignoring 50 per cent of the population by continuing to bar ladies and that would have been horrendous. It is unacceptable for women not to have equal standing and I should not have continued my membership if the vote had been lost."

The Rotary Club of London, which has 160 members, was formed in 1911 and was the first to be chartered outside North America. Only about a third of the clubs that comprise Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland have voted to accept women members and only 925 women are registered among a total membership of 62,965.

However, the stand taken by the London club may not be welcomed by all the women of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland, whose 31,000 members are wives and widows of Rotarians. Some are asking whether the move *might not only diminish the* influence of Inner Wheel, but lead to the admission of men.

The question of discrimination against men could be on the agenda when Inner Wheel stages its international convention in Berlin next year. Already some women are members of both organisations. June Dobson, secretary of the association, said: "Some women are happy about Rotary opening its ranks to women. Others are not. That's life. We shall have to look at our membership rules now that Rotary is admitting the ladies."

Female membership of Rotary became an issue in Britain and Ireland after a Supreme Court ruling in the United States in 1987 that Rotary Clubs broke anti-discrimination legislation by restricting membership to men. On this side of the Atlantic it was decided to allow individual clubs to invite whoever they chose as members.

Rotarians deny there has been any groundswell of pressure to admit women and maintain that the gradual movement for change has come from within as the influence of women in business has grown.

Rotary International was founded in 1905 by Paul P. Harris, a Chicago lawyer, and dedicated to fellowship, charitable works, ethical standards in business and all-male company. The name was adopted because meetings were held in rotation in members' offices. Detractors have included George Bernard Shaw who, when asked where he thought the Rotary movement was heading, replied: "To lunch."

Natural habitat of life's eternal deputy

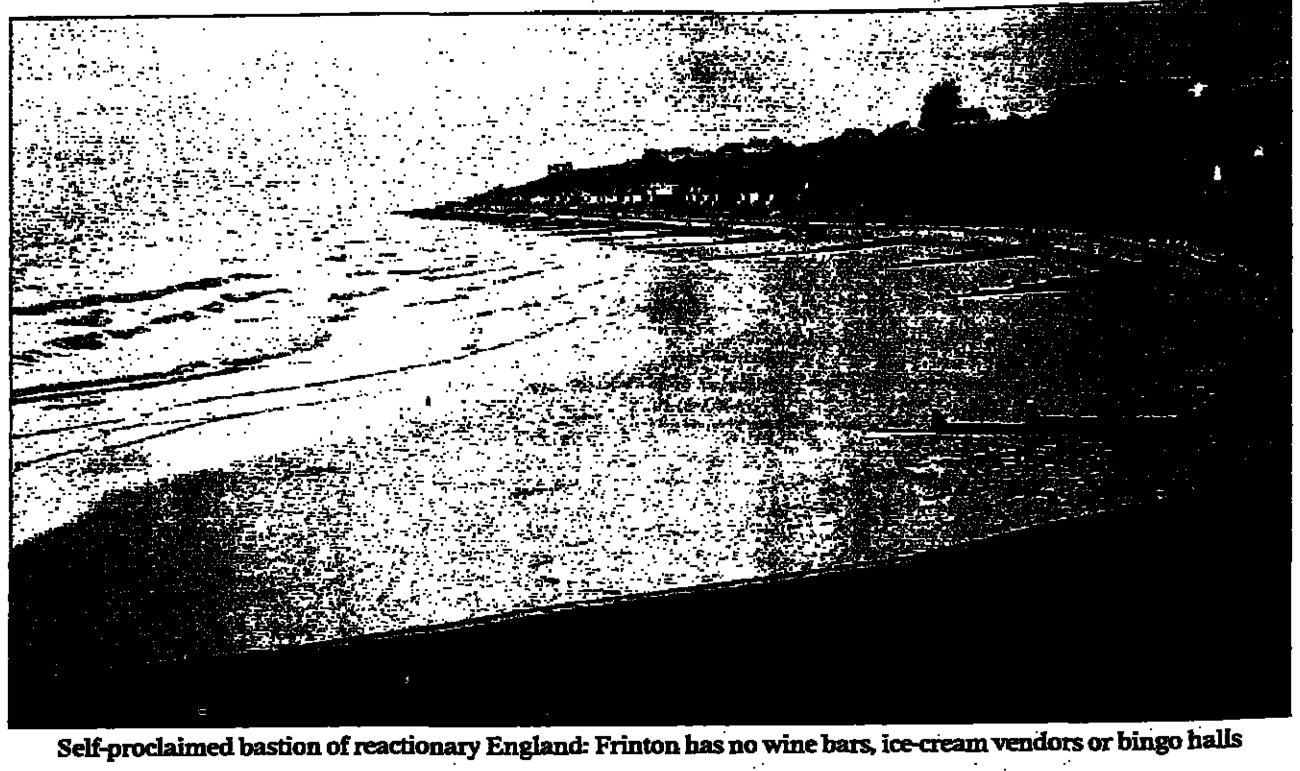
By Jon Ashworth

WIDOWS and orphans are typical beneficiaries of Rotary International, which now has more than 1.1 million members in 187 countries. Punctilious meetings and colourful raffles are meat and drink to the average Rotarian, who is more likely than not to be ageing and, quite possibly, your local shopkeeper.

"We are generally regarded as middle-aged, middle-class do-gooders who are a bit fuddy-duddy," David Morehen, general secretary of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, said. "Our average member is 55 to 60 years old and probably No 2 in his trade, because No 1 is too busy. Accountants, greengrocers, opticians, headmasters, solicitors. We don't shout about what we do."

Rotary clubs typically comprise local businessmen and professionals, one from each trade, who meet once a week and raise money for worthy causes. Each club works autonomously, providing local services and raising funds. Rotarians in Britain and Ireland recently raised £8 million towards vaccinating Third World children. "We use our business expertise to help the community," Mr Morehen said.

CHRIS DAVALLE



Self-proclaimed bastion of reactionary England: Frinton has no wine bars, ice-cream vendors or bingo halls

Seaside town defies tide of progress and rules bar is no place for a lady

By Joanna Bale

A PROUD bastion of reactionary England has fought off another attempt to drag it into the late twentieth century. The men of Frinton-on-Sea have decided it is just not the sort of place where a woman can simply go out for a drink whenever she likes.

The genteel Essex resort has no pubs or wine bars. It has even managed to keep out other signs of commercialism such as bingo halls and ice-cream vendors. It does have the War Memorial Club which, for 75 years, has been an all-male preserve where women are allowed only as guests on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

When one member dared to put forward a proposal to admit women at other times, it was met with such overwhelming opposition that it was withdrawn even before the annual general meeting today.

The club president, Jack Watling, said yesterday: "I'm afraid Frinton is one of the last bastions of reactionary England. The member, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he wasn't allowed out unless his wife went with him.

They shall not pass: Jack Watling, club president, is adamant that women should not be admitted

"I can only assume that so many people leant on him that he withdrew his proposition."

Mr Watling, an actor who has run a summer theatre in Frinton for 20 years, added: "I don't think women should be admitted. Most wives prefer a chap to go to his club because he can't get up to any mischief and she knows where he is. Even if we did allow them in, my wife said she would never go because she knows she would not really be welcome."

Stan Shelton, 69, a member for 25 years, is one of a tiny minority who would like women to be allowed in more often. He said: "I proposed a few years ago to allow them in on Wednesdays and Fridays, but it was kicked out lock, stock and barrel. They were complaining that bar takings were slack on those evenings, but they still wouldn't entertain the idea.

"The ones who oppose it most are old codgers like me, especially those who go lunchtime. They don't want their wives to see what they are drinking, hear them swearing and listen in on what they are talking about."

His wife Win, 76, added: "It is a war memorial club, but they seem to forget that women lost their lives and served in the wars too. It would be nice to go for a quick drink sometimes, rather than a coffee, while we are out shopping. The old boys want to go in there to get away from their missus, but there are some couples who would like to go in too."

For entertainment, the club has dominoes, darts, snooker, billiards, and shove-ha'penny. The club secretary, Ken North, declined to discuss the women's issue. He said: "It's a private club and members are not allowed to talk about what goes on. It's against the rules."

Frinton's unique old-fashioned nature is partly the result of the way that the seafront Greensward was presented to the town a hundred years ago, on condition that it was never marred by commercial vulgarities.

Catholic gets £22,600 for job bias

A Roman Catholic who suffered religious discrimination when he sought a job with the Northern Ireland Police Authority in 1990 has been awarded £22,600 compensation. Only Protestants were shortlisted for the post of armourer, the Fair Employment Tribunal was told. The unnamed Catholic, as well-qualified as three successful candidates, was deprived "because of his religious belief".

Queen in court

The Queen visited Maidenhead Magistrates' Court at the invitation of the Magistrates' Association and watched a series of mock trials featuring actors in the roles of the accused but real solicitors, magistrates and police.

Red kites killed

Poisoners have disrupted plans to restore the red kite to the country, the RSPB reported. At least four were poisoned in the South and the Midlands and a fifth death was being investigated. Last year 24 pairs of kites bred in England.

Press penalties

Northcliffe Newspapers and Graham Glenn, 49, a former editor of the *Gloucester Citizen*, were each fined £4,500 for breaching the Magistrates Courts Act of 1980 when reporting a court appearance by Fred West two years ago.

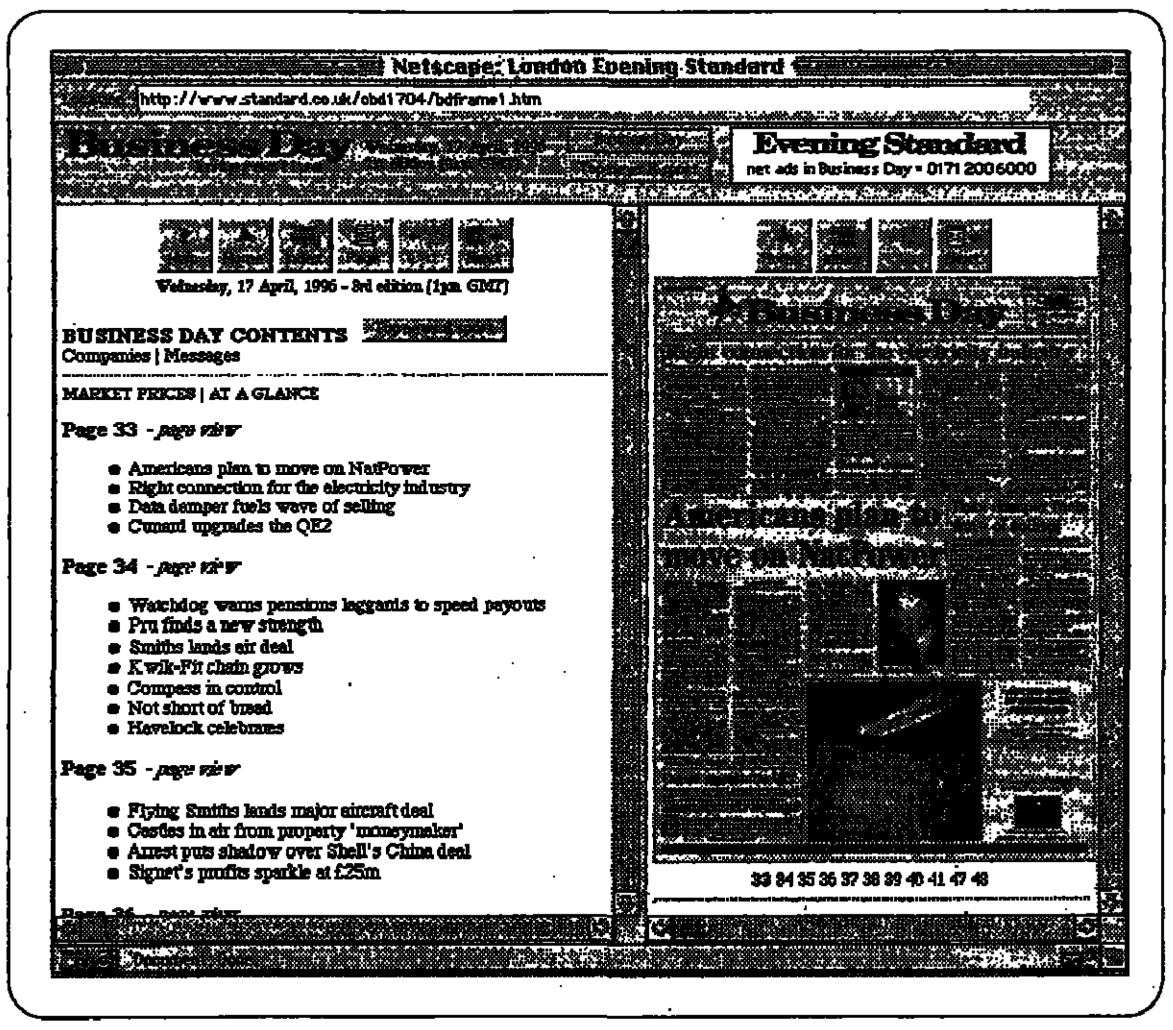
Hunt called off

The search for Christopher Howes, 36, a mine clearance expert from Bristol and his Cambodian translator, taken hostage by Khmer Rouge renegades in the northern province of Siem Reap four weeks ago, has been called off.

Rave cancelled

A May Bank Holiday dance music festival in Oxfordshire has been cancelled after protests over traffic congestion. Magistrates refused a licence for the rave at Otmoor Park after being told that last year's event caused eight-mile jams.

An Unfair Advantage for Internet Users



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هكذا من الاصل

Farmers abandon Brussels sprouts for eastern promise

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

FARMERS who once grew Brussels sprouts are turning to coriander as an alternative crop. Changing culinary fashions and a long-term decline in demand for what was once a staple vegetable are filling English fields with the spicy and aromatic herb.

Bedfordshire has seen one of the biggest booms in the growing of coriander, *Coriandrum sativum*, a native of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Asian entrepreneurs began the trend by leasing land from cash-strapped farmers to produce the herb for the large Asian communities in Luton and Bedford. Coriander has long been widely used as a flavouring in Indian cooking.

Steve Hatcher, of the East Bedfordshire branch of the National Farmers' Union, said: "Coriander is a labour-intensive crop to grow because it has to be picked by hand. It is not uncommon to see gangs of Asians out in the fields doing the work."

Other farmers have been drawn into growing coriander by the increasing demand for the fresh herb from supermarkets and restaurants in response to the fashion for oriental stir-fry cooking, particularly of the Thai variety, encouraged by television chefs such as Delia Smith and Keith Floyd.

David Gudgin, who runs 40 acres of market gardens at Shefford, Bedfordshire, began growing coriander ten years ago and has seen a jump in demand in recent years.

He said: "Fresh coriander is very popular, with many people sprinkling it on top of food instead of something more traditionally English, like parsley. I know of at least 15 other farmers in the neighbourhood who are also growing it. Most farmers round here have stopped growing Brussels sprouts. People are just not eating them like they used to 10 to 15 years ago."

Mr Gudgin grows enough coriander each year to fill 5,000 boxes containing 20 bunches each. He also grows leeks, cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli but reckons that coriander is now his most valuable crop.

"We sell wholsesale to markets in Birmingham, Leicester and London and also supply about 30 local hotels and restaurants direct. We start drilling in March and round about now are moving into the peak harvesting period, which lasts through the summer. During the winter supplies are imported."

Caroline Holmes, chairman of the Herb Society, said interest in more unusual herbs had been greatly stimulated by better education and wider travel.

"Coriander seeds, which are mainly associated with Indian cooking, have been around for a long time but until five years or so ago you would probably have had to grow your own if you wanted the fresh leaf," she said. "Now all the big supermarkets offer coriander growing in pots or packets of fresh-cut leaves. Other herbs used in Thai cooking, such as lemon grass and garlic chives, are also becoming popular."

Debra Pieri, of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, said: "Coriander has increased in popularity, particularly since last year and some people would say it is as popular as parsley. This is largely because of the increase in consumption of Indonesian and Eastern cookery."

Pots of fresh coriander cost about 80p, while bags of the herb retail at about 60p.

MARC ASPLAND

Pat Coley harvests coriander in Shefford, Bedfordshire, where fields were once covered in Brussels sprouts

BITTER HERB OF THE PASSOVER

Coriander, one of the bitter herbs eaten at Passover, was said to have been used by the Greek physician Hippocrates (Nicole Veash writes). The plant, whose seeds were discovered in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs, arrived in Britain with the Romans, who used it as an aromatic stimulant and spice. In folk medicine it was used to treat aches and pains and *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia* said that in excess coriander could cause nausea and diarrhoea. More recently coriander was distilled to form an oil recommended as a cure for flatulence. In China those who ate the herb were thought to attain immortality but this heightened feeling was perhaps a result of the plant's mildly narcotic properties. The Romans used the seeds to flavour bread. Nowadays they are used to flavour gin, liqueurs, frankfurter sausages, chewing gum and cigarette tobacco.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANTHONY BLAKE

Sweet scallops give a taste of season's best

WEEKEND SHOPPING

UNEXPECTED coastal winds have resulted in poor landings of fish and shortages of several species. Herrings and sprats are not available. The best alternative is Scottish kippers at about £1.20 a lb.

The seasonal best buy is fresh scallops, from about 60p each for small ones to £1.20 for those weighing 4-5oz. Scallops have a sweet creamy flesh and, because of their delicate texture, should be fried lightly in a little butter. Serve with spring onions, tomatoes and rocket for a delicious seasonal salad.

The British new potato season has begun. The first Jersey Royals are in the shops at £1.29 for 500g. By next week the price will be down to 99p.

Announced promotions include:

Asda: fresh beef frying steak £4.38 a kg, fresh pork chops £4.38 a kg, strawberries 95p a lb, grilling mushrooms 59p a lb, spring greens 99p a kg, daffodils 29p a bunch.

Budgens: unsmoked rindless Dutch bacon rashers £1.99 for 400g, fresh chicken drumsticks £2.29 for 1.1kg, tomatoes 79p for six, soft white finger rolls 49p for six.

Co-op: fresh Aberdeen Angus rump steak £8.99 a kg, fresh whole medium chicken £3.49 for 1.6kg, grated mature cheddar £1.15 for 250g, smoked salmon pâté 79p for 113g, Onken Bio yoghurt 89p for 500g.

Harrods: selection of fresh crudités £1.49 for 250g, spicy chicken and mango baguettes £2.50 each, proscuitto alla brace charcoal-cooked Italian ham £1.49 for 100g, Perail de Brebis cheeses £3.50 each.

Iceland: lemon-butter chicken Kievs £1.49 for two, unsmoked back bacon £2.29 for 396g, prawn and broccoli lattice £1.99 for two, baby carrots 69p for 907g, McCain oven chips £1.99 for 1.8kg, sticky toffee cheesecake £1.49.

Marks & Spencer: canneloni for two £2.49, tagliatelle for one £1.49, pesto sauce £1.39, Tuscan olive oil £3.29, New Zealand Cox's apples £1.49 for six, raspberries £1.49 for 125g.

Morrisons: mackerel 79p a lb, fresh salmon steaks £2.29 a lb, spinach and ricotta cannelloni 89p for 350g, garlic bread twin pack 99p, light cottage cheese 65p for 227g, frozen hash browns 89p for 750g.

Safeway: rainbow trout £4.69 a kg, British crumbed ham 59p a ¼ lb, New Zealand extra mature cheddar £2.19 a lb, potato salad 39p a ¼ lb, new potatoes 25p a lb, Packham pears 39p a lb, frozen strawberry and cream cheesecake £1.49.

Sainsbury's: fresh New Zealand bone-in lamb leg £5.49 a kg, 12 fresh chicken drumsticks £2.69 for 1.2kg, fresh plaice fillets £6.40 a kg, Parma ham £1.25 for 100g, Galia melon £1.49, whole cucumber 49p, golden delicious apples 89p a kg, dolcelatte cheese £4.49 a kg.

Somerfield: boneless loin pork chops £6.61 a kg, boneless shoulder of lamb £6.33 a kg, Scotch eggs 59p for two, asparagus tips £1.69 for 125g, red potatoes £2.38 for 5kg, oranges £1.35 for 1.5kg, rhubarb 64p a lb.

Tesco: lamb loin chops £9.69 a kg, cod fillet £1.95 a lb, whole lemon sole £2.79 a lb, rainbow trout £1.87 a lb, New Zealand half-shell mussels 39p a ¼ lb, broccoli 79p a lb, Jaffa oranges £1.19 for eight.

Waitrose: British roasting beef £5.99 a kg, fresh poussin £2.35 for 800g, skate wings £2.59 a lb, salmon en croute £2.49 for 400g, stringless beans 99p for 250g, Shropshire Blue cheese £2.49 a lb, crème fraiche £1.39 for 500ml.

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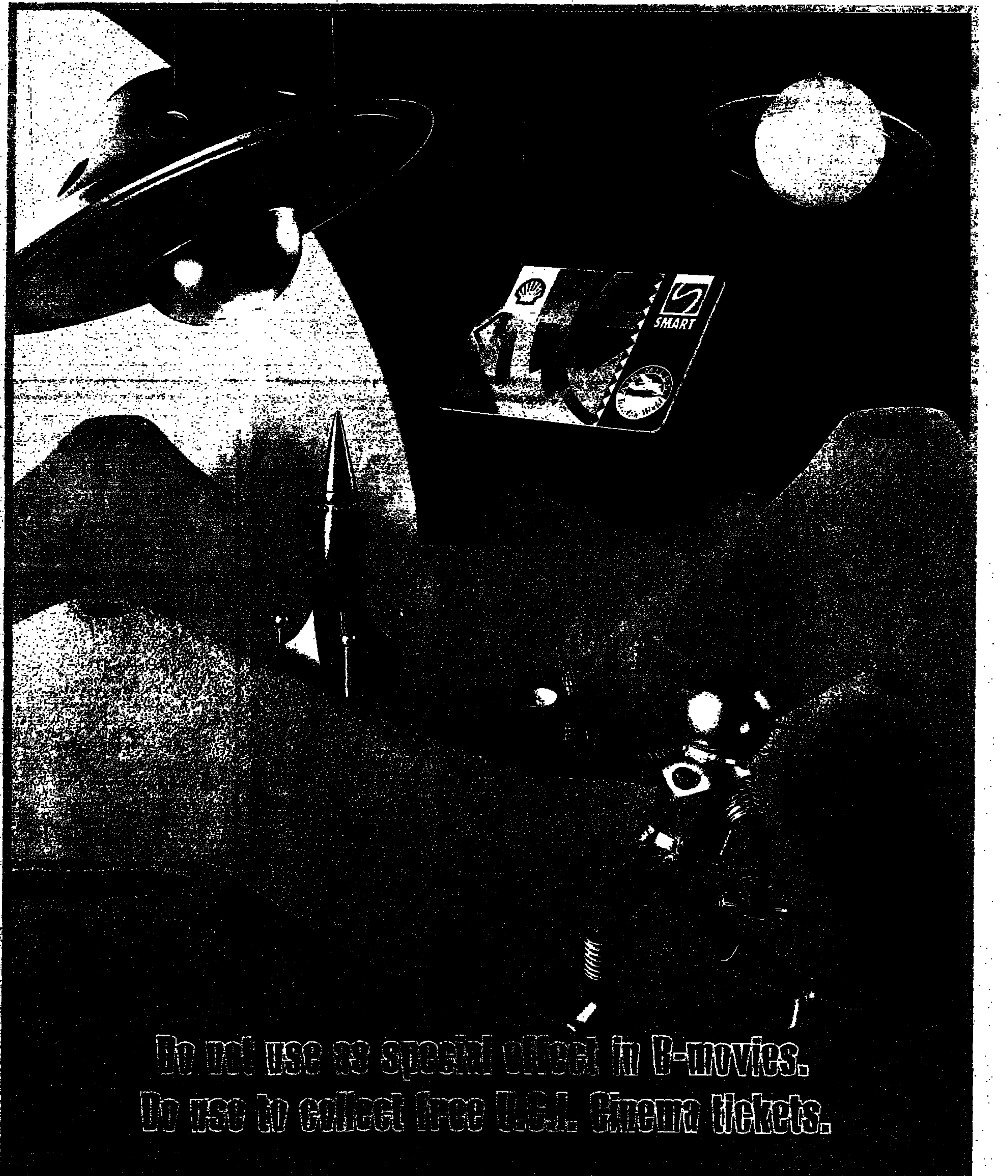
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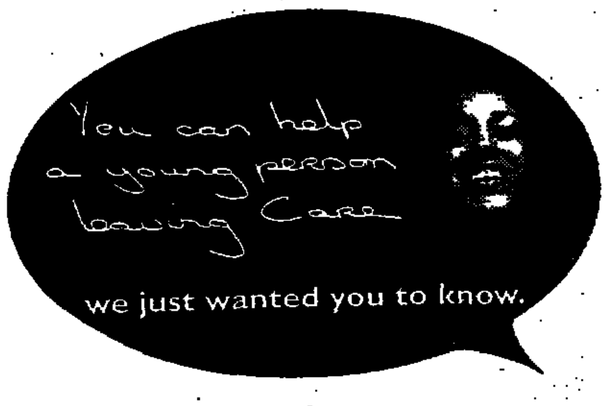

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Voters doubt that Blair's government will live up to his party's promises

New supporters betray lack of faith in Labour

Blair: liked better than Labour's policies

By Peter Riddell

THE public has become more dubious about whether a Labour government would keep its promises and deliver improved living standards and welfare services, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that, despite Labour's continuing high ratings, many of the party's newly won supporters are sceptical about its ability to deliver on its promises. The latest poll, and previous ones, suggests that these switchers to Labour are motivated more by dislike of the Government and liking for Tony Blair personally than by enthusiasm for the party's policies.

MORI asked eight questions about expectations for a Labour government which were previously asked in March 1995. Public confidence in Labour's ability to deliver has declined over the 13 months for six of the eight measures, particularly improving living standards, keeping promises, improving welfare state services and cutting unemployment. Some of this could, paradoxically, reflect the Labour leadership's attempt to lower expectations.

By contrast, Mr Blair has succeeded in reassuring middle-class voters about its intentions on tax and over the influence of trade unions on a Labour government. A net balance of 50 per cent of the public believes that Labour would, rather than would not, increase income tax. This is virtually unchanged on last year. But the net balance among the middle classes has declined from plus 62 to to plus 56 per cent.

The number expecting that a Labour government would be controlled by the unions, less than those expecting it would not, has declined from minus 19 to minus 21 per cent, but the drop among the middle classes is from minus 17 to minus 26 per cent.

The most worrying point for Mr Blair is that new Labour switchers, who have started backing the party since 1992, are more sceptical than party supporters generally about whether a Labour government would keep its promises and improve living standards.

While Labour supporters expect that in government will, rather than will not, improve living standards by a net margin of plus 18 points, among switchers to Labour the net balance is minus six points. A net balance of half the switchers believes that Labour would increase income tax, roughly the same as for the public as a whole, but comparing with a net balance of 36 points among Labour supporters generally.

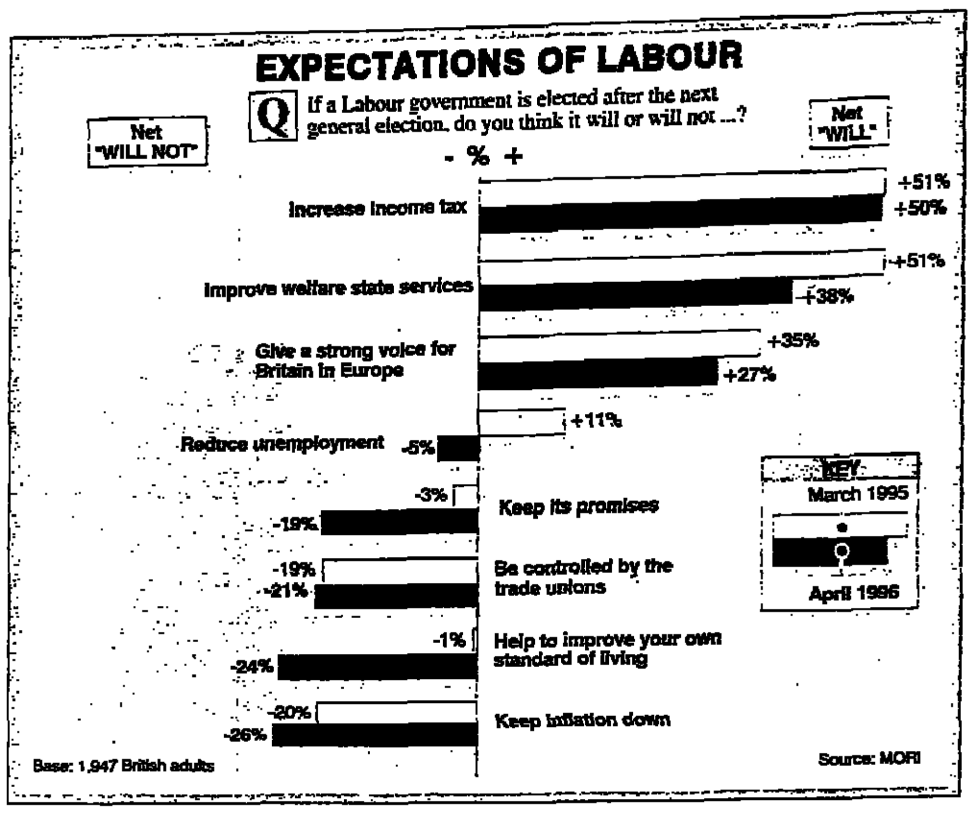
These switchers believe even more than other Labour supporters than a future Government would give a strong voice for Britain in Europe and would not be controlled by the trade unions.

These switchers are among the strongest admirers of Mr Blair's performance as leader, while 96 per cent of them are dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country. This is higher than in any other group.

These poll findings underline that Labour's problem is the credibility of its policy pledges. Qualitative research about the attitudes of such switchers shows they are more dissatisfied with the Tories than committed to Labour.

The poll shows that the number of people mentioning Europe as among the most important issues facing Britain has risen from 16 to 20 per cent, the highest level since last June. The number listing the NHS as an important issue has declined in recent months from about 40 per cent to 34 per cent, only just above education on 33 per cent. Unemployment remains top.

☐ *MORI interviewed 1,947 adults on April 16 to 22. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent)*



Council boost for Lib Dems

THE Liberal Democrats may do better in the local elections next Thursday than their recent national opinion poll ratings have suggested (Peter Riddell writes).

In their latest poll for *The Times*, MORI asked people how they would vote in the local elections on May 2. This question was asked only in the 44 per cent of the country with elections then.

Excluding those saying they were certain not to vote or don't know, 26 per cent support the Tories, 50 per cent back Labour and 21 per cent the Liberal Democrats. The figures are virtually the same for just those saying they are certain to vote. In these areas, 28 per cent say they would back the Tories if there was a general election tomorrow, 54 per cent support Labour and 17 per cent the Liberal Democrats. The same contrast has been true in previous local elections.

Brown must back tax reassurance with some substance

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Labour leadership is in a bother again about tax — not about the details of its plans (which are genuinely undecided) but about how to handle the continuing political fuss over the issue. This is about the only area where Conservative Central Office has been able to put much pressure on Labour — and where the party's delaying tactics appear unconvincing. Labour leaders may even be relieved that the latest MORI poll shows no increase in the high proportion who already expect that a Labour government would raise income tax.

Tax has become *the* symbolic issue for both the Tories and Labour. Tory strategists believe that their attacks on Labour's tax plans increased public doubts about the Opposition's fitness to govern in both 1987 and 1992. And they are trying to do the same again. Labour leaders, and particularly Gordon Brown, has drawn the same lesson and have been doing everything possible to avoid giving ammunition to the Tories on tax.

This vacuum has given ample opportunity for Central Office to seize on even vague comments about higher taxes by Labour frontbenchers or surveys of the views of Labour MPs and candidates (as in today's *Tribune*). The divisions are mainly of detail and have been magnified in importance by the leadership's refusal to spell out whether, and at what levels, higher rates might be paid.

The real differences between the parties on tax are small. As David Lipsey argues in the new collection of essays, *What Needs to Change* (edited by Giles Radice and published yesterday), governments have an influence on levels of spending, and hence taxes, only at the margin: as, if not more, important are the state of the economy and long-term demographic trends. After all, the Tories have found it hard even to contain the growth of the overall tax burden. The level might be slightly higher under Labour, but probably not much.

The better-off, who have done very well under the Tories, would probably pay more under Labour. But the top marginal rate, now 40 per cent, would almost certainly not rise to the 60 per cent level it was under the Tories until 1988, let alone to the pre-1979 peak of 83 per cent. Labour wants to hold down the tax burden for those on average earnings and below.

But even if the Tory charges are grossly exaggerated, there are legitimate questions about Labour's broad spending and tax strategy. The Labour leadership believes it cannot win by being candid now. Mr Brown is right that it is absurd to expect Labour to spell out its precise tax plans now or in its draft manifesto in June when public borrowing figures are being revised upwards and the fiscal outlook will not be clear until after the November Budget.

Labour does not think it can, or should, copy Paddy Ashdown and announce "target taxes" for specific ends like nursery places and free eye and dental check-ups. That approach, Labour argues, may offer a distinctive, niche appeal for the Liberal Democrats, but it begs questions about overall spending and tax plans for a party seeking to be the next government. If Mr Brown did announce a new top rate of tax now, the Tories would then press for other figures about tax plans and the process could not be controlled. The problems with detail have been shown in the criticism of his recent ideas about reallocating child benefit for 16 to 18 years olds.

The leadership believes that all Mr Brown can, and should do, is to restate the general principles of tax strategy. But this may not dampen speculation. The public is dissatisfied with the Tories, but, as the latest poll shows, many voters have doubts about what Labour would do in office. Labour has no choice but to put some substance behind its general words of reassurance.

PETER RIDDELL

MP seeks damages over Tory 'libel'

By James Landale
Political Reporter

BRIAN MAWHINNEY faces the prospect of legal action over allegations in a Conservative Central Office dossier. Solicitors for Tom Clarke, MP for Monklands West and a member of the Shadow Cabinet, demanded an apology yesterday from the Tory party chairman, substantial damages and costs for what they called "a gross libel".

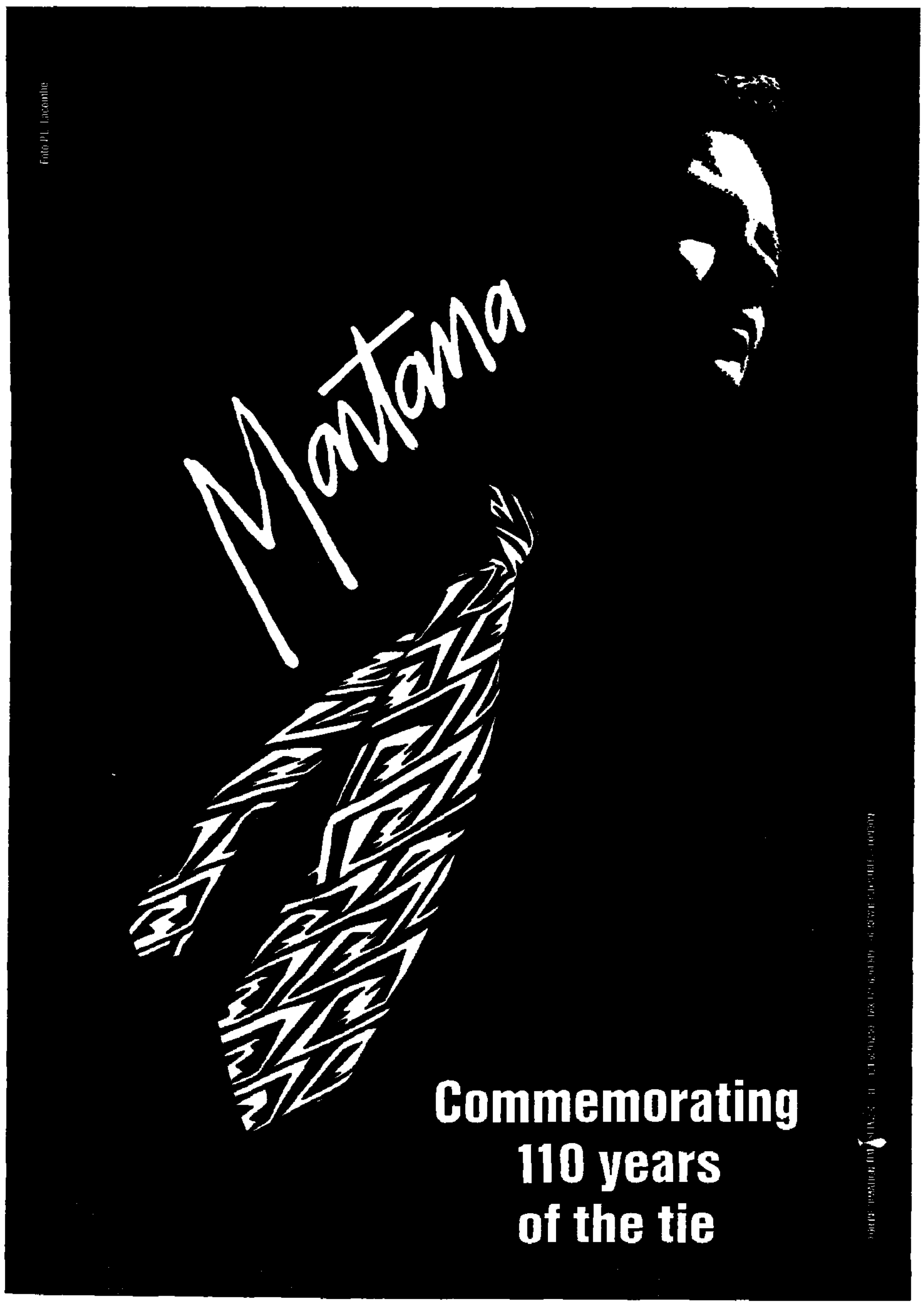
They claim that Mr Clarke was falsely accused in a document called The Labour Party's Un-American Activities, issued by the Tories to coincide with Tony Blair's recent visit to the United States. The MP is said to have been falsely described as having been a member of "a secretive grouping called The Supper Club" — a left-wing faction which was concerned about Neil Kinnock's leadership — and having been opposed to American and British intervention in the Gulf War.

Mr Clarke said *The Mail on Sunday* had apologised and paid damages in 1991 after similar allegations had been printed. He added: "I am deeply hurt and angered, particularly as I have always had many friends and colleagues in the United States."

Tory officials said the matter was being examined.

TOMORROW

Clement Freud in Stratford-upon-Avon



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MPs are planning more trouble for divorce reforms

By Jill Sherman and James Landale

THE Government's controversial divorce reform laws look likely to run into more trouble next week with Labour joining Tory rebels in backing fresh amendments to the Bill.

Yesterday the John Major vowed to carry on with the legislation despite a rebellion by 165 Tory MPs that resulted in a humiliating defeat for the Government on Wednesday night.

After a meeting of the Cabinet yesterday morning, ministers agreed to press ahead with the final stages of the Family Law Bill. But several senior backbenchers privately suggested that the Bill be abandoned in the light of the unprecedented rebellion against a key plank of the government's reforms.

Labour has Tory rebel backing for a new amendment requiring couples to consider reconciliation before they go ahead with the divorce process. In effect the amendment would add a further two months to the "cooling off" period for divorce, which will be extended from 12 months to 18 months because of Wednesday night's revolt.

Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, also served warning that his party would withdraw its support from the Bill at its third reading unless it was changed significantly. Although it is likely that Labour will abstain on the Bill, Mr Boateng did not rule out voting against, which would almost certainly wreck it.

Tony Blair did his best to exploit the Government's disarray but in angry exchanges in the Commons Mr Major accused him of being prepared to "dragoon" his own MPs to act againt their consciences for party political purposes. The Prime Minister strongly defended his decision to allow a free vote on matters of conscience in the Bill. "I gave my word and have kept it," he said.

Mr Blair capitalised on the Government's embarrassment by claiming that the Tory revolt by four Cabinet members and more than 30 middle-ranking ministers showed "the humiliating state to which your authority has been reduced".

To Tory jeers, Mr Blair suggested the rebellion was further evidence of Tory splits and pressure within the party to move to the right. "It was fundamentally about the ethos of the Bill and fundamentally about the direction of the Conservative Party," he said.

"Doesn't it show the advanced state of decay your Government is in that you now, on this messed-up measure, have to rely on Opposition support to carry it through the House of Commons?"

Tory rebels earlier demonstrated that there would be no let-up in their battle to "save marriage". Edward Leigh, a former minister who is leading the rebellion against the reforms, insisted that there was a gut feeling in the party in favour of traditional moral values. "The vote sent a signal that the Conservative Party is returning to its roots," he said.

Mr Leigh has tabled a similar motion to Labour's calling for a three-month process of reconciliation.

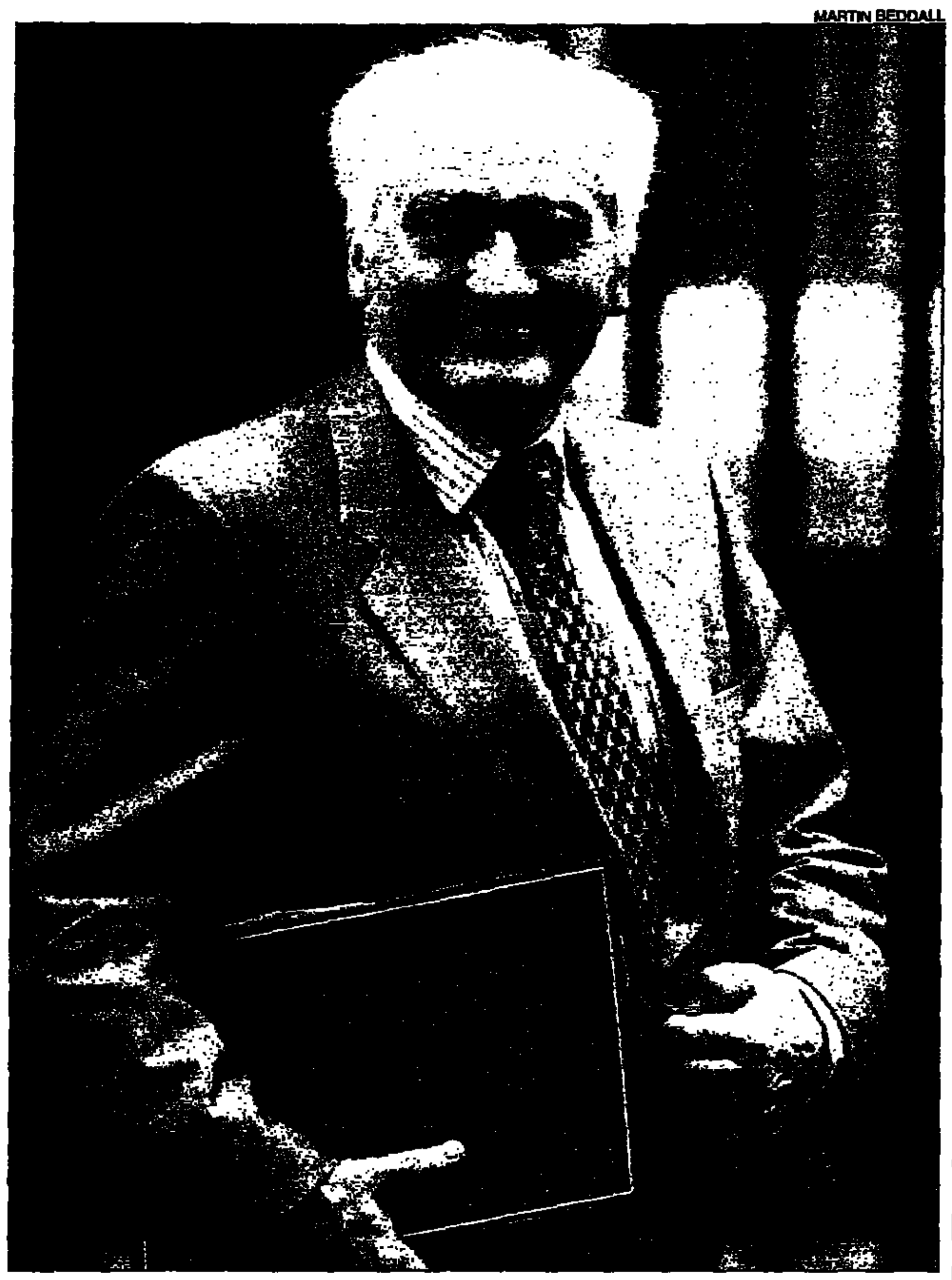
Mr Leigh also called for extra government resources for reconciliation. Legal aid, he said, should be available not only for mediation, as laid down in the Bill, but also for reconciliation. In addition judges should be allowed to take a spouse's conduct into account when determining the disposal of the couple's assets.

There were few signs yesterday that the Government was preparing to concede further ground. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who introduced the Bill, is understood to be sympathetic to calls for reconciliation, provided it is not mandatory. But ministers said that the measures would be expensive and the Treasury is expected to oppose them.

A spokesman from Conservative Central Office accused Mr Blair of "sheer opportunism" and senior Tories later argued that the Labour leader had committed a grave tactical error by his comments, which prompted them to rally behind the Prime Minister.

Leading article, page 21

MARTIN BEDDALL



Lord Mackay yesterday, still determined to get the Family Law Bill through

Labour scheme for the Lords 'badly flawed'

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

LABOUR'S plans to reform the House of Lords are seriously flawed, according to a think-tank set up to examine the implementation of constitutional change.

The Constitution Unit says that Tony Blair's constitutional programme is too rushed and could consume virtually all the parliamentary time available for legislation in its first term.

The warning came as Derek Foster, the Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, gave details of "a radical programme of constitutional and democratic renewal" which a Labour government would introduce as a matter of urgency. He told a private conference of senior civil servants, that Labour would introduce measures including a new Governance of Britain Act, a Freedom of Information Act, a Bill of rights, reform of quangos and an end to the market testing of public services.

Mr Blair plans to end the voting rights of hereditary peers in the Second Chamber within six months of Labour gaining power.

But the Constitution Unit, which is backed by a group of pro-reform academics and politicians, notes that previous controversial constitutional Bills, including the enactment of the Maastricht Treaty and failed attempts at Scottish devolution have taken up to 200 hours each on the floor of the Commons. In a typical session, the time available for government Bills is about 400 hours on the floor for a programme of about 60 Bills.

The unit, headed by Professor James Cornford, says that cutting the time required for constitutional bills would be fraught with controversy. It suggests instead a process of consensus-building about the role and powers of a second chamber. Mr Blair should convene a party leaders' conference to agree the broad principles if he wins the next general election.

There should be accord over whether hereditary peers are replaced with either nominated or elected members before a Bill is introduced. To counter charges that the new body would be a giant quango, the public could nominate candidates to become cross-bench peers and the parties could be represented in proportion to their votes at the last election. Alternatively the party in government woud have a majority of one over the nearest opposition party.

The parties would also have to debate whether membership of the second chamber was a job or an honour, and whether it could provide a voice for the regions.

Mackay waylaid by moral majority

By Alice Thomson

WHEN Lord Mackay quietly announced his "modest little" Family Law Bill last year, he had no idea what antipathy it would attract. It was months before the seemingly uncontentious piece of legislation met the wrath of the moral majority.

First a few right-wing backbenchers tried and failed to scupper it. Only when Baroness Young, the former leader of the House, turned her formidable anger on the Lord Chancellor did problems loom. Baroness Young, a Tory, linked with Labour's Baroness Hollis of Heigham to embarrass Lord Mackay into his first U-turn over pensions. Baroness Young made it clear that no-fault divorce was anathema to well-bred, middle-aged women.

But Lord Mackay made it equally clear to peers that he was determined to get the Bill through. He told the Lords that it was ludicrous that if you were guilty of adultery you could remarry quickly, whereas if you had just drifted apart you had to wait five years.

Lord Mackay's first mistake, according to his detractors, was ever to have allowed his name to be so strongly linked to the Bill. They caricatured him as a naive, stubborn man who had fallen among legal activists from the Law Commission and the politically correct, and was pushing through a charter for marriage without responsibilities.

His Bill might have been tampered with but so far Lord Mackay has retained his beloved no-fault principle and seems destined to continue as the longest-serving Lord Chancellor.

IN PARLIAMENT

Yesterday in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister; private notice question on BSE; Rating (Caravans and Boats) Bill, Lords amendments; Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill, remaining stages; backbench debate on employment consequences of the decline in electrical engineering in Gorton.

In the Lords: Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations) Bill, all stages; debate on relations with Caribbean countries.

TODAY In the Commons: the Offensive Weapons Bill, report stage; Prisoners Earnings' Bill, report stage; backbench debate on priorities for change in education.

In the Lords: Road Traffic Offences (Northern Ireland) Order; Ombudsman (Northern Ireland) Order; Commissioner for Complaints (Northern Ireland) Order; Finance Bill, all stages; Trustee Investments (Division of Trust Fund) Order; Charities (Trustee Investments Act) Order.

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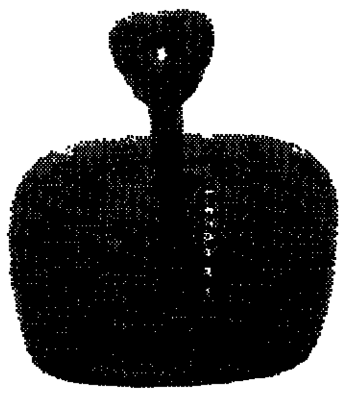

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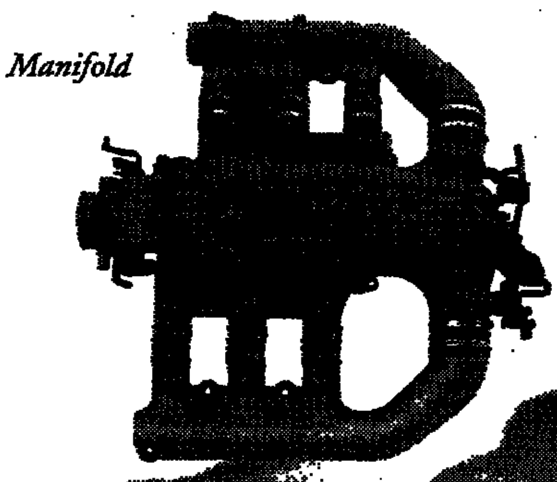

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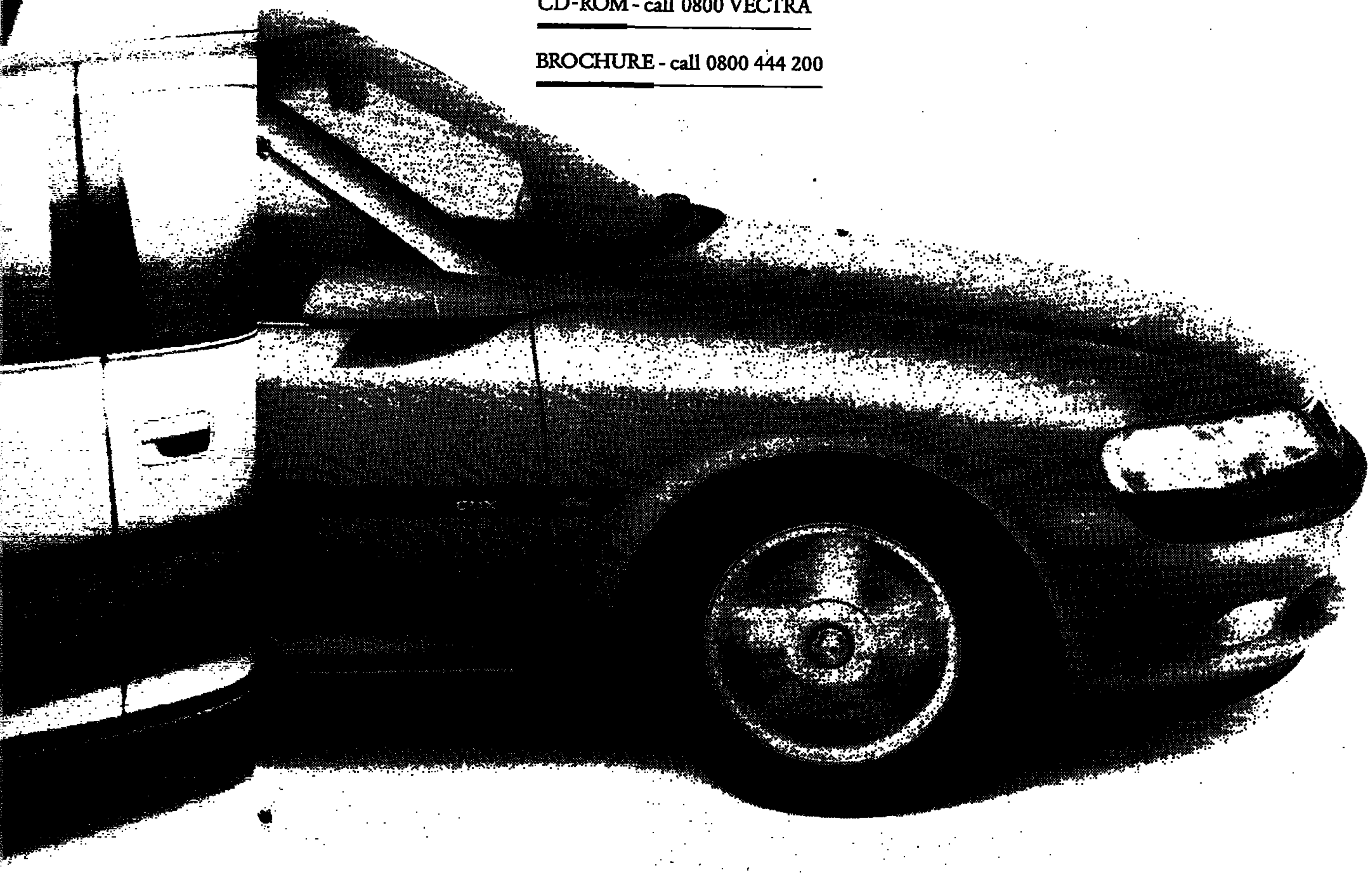

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England

Three young boys accused of beating month-old baby

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

A FOUR-week-old boy was critically ill yesterday after being beaten by three youngsters aged between six and eight who broke into the flat where he was lying in a cradle to steal a tricycle.

Ignacio Bermudez was on a life-support machine and in extremely critical condition with internal bleeding and compound skull fractures, according to doctors treating him at a children's hospital near San Francisco.

While doctors refused to say whether the baby was expected to recover, officials were deciding whether to bring charges of attempted murder against the three boys accused of carrying out the beating.

The crime, with grim echoes of the murder of two-year-old Jamie Bulger by two young boys on Merseyside, has appalled the police and residents alike in the so-called Iron Triangle district of Richmond, east of San Francisco Bay, a poor and mainly Hispanic neighbourhood already numb to routine street violence.

All three boys suspected of the beating were caught soon afterwards and are being held at the Contra Costa County Juvenile Hall. One, aged six, is the hall's youngest ever inmate. Known as a troublemaker, he had often been seen roaming the streets brandishing sticks, neighbours said. He is thought to have been the ringleader in the attack. The other two are twins, aged eight. Their identities have not been released.

The authorities had until yesterday afternoon to bring charges against the boys, although the county district attorney's office said that charges may not be filed because of the heavy burden of proof required under state law to prosecute children so young.

Ignacio, born into a hard-working family on Richmond's Chanslor Avenue, was apparently unattended when the boys struck. His parents had left the flat for 15 minutes to buy food, the police said, and his stepsister, 18, was in the bathroom.

The beating lasted about two minutes and left the baby lying silent and bruised on a bed where he was found by the stepsister, who raised the alarm. The boys took a tricycle belonging to one of the baby's siblings but were stopped by neighbours as they fled down a nearby street. The boys were taken by their mothers to Richmond police station.

"Richmond has a reputation as a tough town, but I grew up here and this is not Richmond," Police Sergeant Michael Walter told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I've never seen anything like this in my life. This is an anomaly."

When questioned by police officers, the boys were unable to explain why they carried out the beating and apparently showed little remorse. They are being kept apart from other juvenile hall inmates, and are being given special tutoring and round-the-clock supervision.

While Ignacio's parents maintain a 24-hour vigil at his bedside, their neighbours have expressed shock at the beating but not at the fact that the boys were able to enter the Bermudez home. Despite high crime rates, the Iron Triangle is known for its strong sense of solidarity between neighbours, who often leave their front doors open.

"Nobody can explain it," the accused boys' headmaster said after telling colleagues that three of their pupils were in custody for the beating. "Maybe those children don't know the difference between right and wrong."

Defending Richmond's reputation, Sergeant Walter pointed out that in a working class city of 85,000 people there were "only" 27 murders last year.

Jackie's ring sold to baked bean boss

From Quentin Letts
in New York

NEW YORK, still in the grip of Jackie O fever, was yesterday transfixed by the possibility that the mystery buyer of the Lesotho III diamond was Tony O'Reilly, the Irish millionaire.

The successful bidder for the diamond, which went for an eye-popping $2.6 million (£1.75 million), was represented in the auction house on Wednesday night by his friends Al and Felice Lippert. The ring was given to Jacqueline Kennedy by her second husband, Aristotle Onassis, as an engagement present.

Mr O'Reilly is chairman of H. J. Heinz and a major shareholder in the *Independent* newspaper. He used to play rugby for Ireland and has a famously beautiful wife, Chrissy, who is Greek.

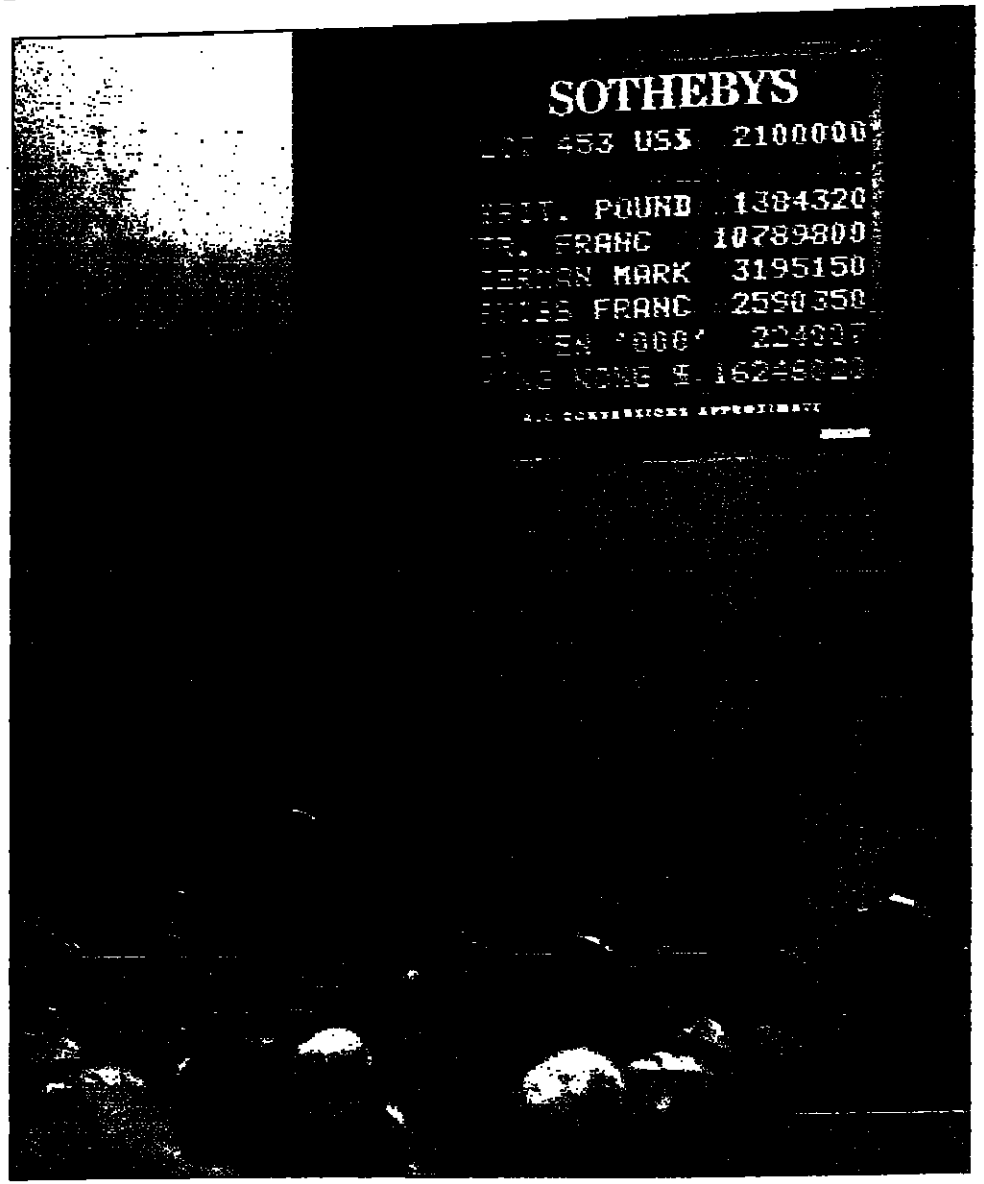
Mr Lippert, a founder of Weight Watchers which was bought by H. J. Heinz several years ago, disclosed that he himself was "emotional and tense" during the auction.

At Sotheby's, meanwhile, the heavy bidding continued yesterday with a string of fake pearls selling for more than $200,000. Their estimated value was $500, but that had not taken into account the fact that they were worn by Mrs Kennedy in the charming 1962 photograph of her holding little Jon-Jon. The child played with the "pearls" while his mother threw back her head with joy. It was a picture of domestic innocence before an assassin's bullet destroyed the myth of Camelot, an image imprinted on the American psyche.

Other apparently mundane items sold for a fortune. A French grammar book, filled with the schoolgirl doodles of the young Jackie Bouvier, fetched $42,500. An enamel cigarette lighter, which Sotheby's expected to raise perhaps $300, went for $85,000.

The Lesotho diamond was discovered one May morning in 1967 by a South African digger and was sold to Aristotle Onassis by the New York jeweller Harry Winston.

The Kennedy children, Caroline and John Jnr, have still not been spotted at the auction, which ends today.



The bidding for Jackie Onassis's ring passes the $2 million mark at Sotheby's

Yeltsin seals pact in China

Hong Kong: President Yeltsin concludes his three-day visit to China today after a series of agreements and the transfer of Sukhoi jet fighters (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The two countries signed a 14-point "strategic partnership", and President Jiang Zemin spoke of "living in conditions of friendship from generation to generation". Both leaders also attacked US "hegemony".

But they made clear that closer co-operation does not mean that the two countries will form an alliance. They are each using the other as a foil against America.

Chechen leader vows revenge

Moscow: Chechenia's new rebel leader promised to avenge the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev, and said he would press on with the drive for Chechen independence. Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, at his first news conference in a secret location in Chechenia, added that there would be no peace talks with Moscow until it was clear who was responsible for his predecessor's death. *(Reuter)*

González charge is rejected

Madrid: A supreme court investigator found no evidence linking Felipe González, Spain's outgoing Prime Minister, to death squads that allegedly murdered Basque separatists in the 1980s, court sources said. They said the court was likely soon to issue a writ rejecting complaints filed against him and other high officials. *(Reuter)*

Hostage-taker shot at school

Teslic, Bosnia: Police snipers shot dead a Bosnian Serb jailbreaker who took 22 teenagers hostage at gunpoint in school at Teslic in Serb-held north Bosnia. The pupils were held for eight hours while their captor demanded £420,000 and a car to escape to Muslim territory. *(Reuter)*

Car blazes force recall of 8m US Fords

By Quentin Letts

MORE than eight million Fords are to be recalled in the United States and Canada for repair to a faulty ignition switch which caused some vehicles to burst into flames.

The mass recall, perhaps the biggest, affects American-made vehicles and will cost the manufacturer $970 million (£642 million). Ford said that the money would come from a contingency fund it has for just such times.

"In a very small number of vehicles, the ignition switch could experience an internal short circuit, creating the potential for overheating, smoke and possibly fire in the steering column of the vehicle," a Ford spokesman said. Models included in the recall are Escorts made in America between 1988 and 1990, some early 1993 Mustangs, 1988-89 F-series pickups and Broncos.

The Ford Probe, a model sold in Britain, is not affected. A spokesman for Ford in Britain said last night: "It does not affect any vehicles in Britain."

All vehicles being recalled were fitted with the same type of ignition switch. Modern Ford ignitions do not have the problem.

The recall is a blow to Ford but it became inevitable after news reports last week about the fire problems. An internal Ford memorandum noted that a third of the fires happened in cars that were parked, sometimes in garages underneath bedrooms. The potential for litigation seemed enormous, and Ford executives realised that they had no option but to call the cars in for refitting.

The problem grew when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, having noticed a series of bizarre conflagrations at traffic lights and at private addresses, commented that it was "unusual for a car to catch fire when it was stopped". Consumers had reported 820 fires from the switches in the United States.

A typical victim was Ellen Page, of Toms River, New Jersey, whose Thunderbird self-ignited late one night. She and her family were sleeping over the garage but managed to escape injury after being awakened by an alarm. The car was wrecked.

Ford's action comes close to matching last year's record 8.8 million cars recalled by ten car manufacturers to fix faulty seat belts.

Doubts over Libya attack

Washington: A Pentagon scientist has admitted any American plans to destroy a suspected chemical weapons plant in Libya would have to include using nuclear weapons (Tom Rhodes writes).

Harold Smith, an assistant to William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said military scientists were trying to develop a conventional warhead able to penetrate underground sites, but only a B61 nuclear bomb had the capability. His remark was one of the first examples since the Cold War's end of a Pentagon official expressing American nuclear intent.

Clinton lawyers fight to keep video off TV

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

PRESIDENT CLINTON is rarely accused of being camera-shy, but his lawyers are battling to prevent his starring role in a video to be shot at the White House this weekend from ever becoming public.

Mr Clinton will spend up to eight hours on Sunday giving testimony for the Arkansas trial of his former Whitewater partners. The video of his performance will be flown to Little Rock and shown to the jury. The White House is naturally eager to keep pictures of the President testifying in a criminal case off the television news, but is alarmed by the prospect of his foes using clips in campaign commercials before November's presidential election.

"We have been increasingly concerned (by) indications the Republicans are virtually salivating at the chance to politicise the tape," a spokesman said. The White House says that it is prepared to release a transcript, and might eventually allow the video to go to the National Archives, but nothing more.

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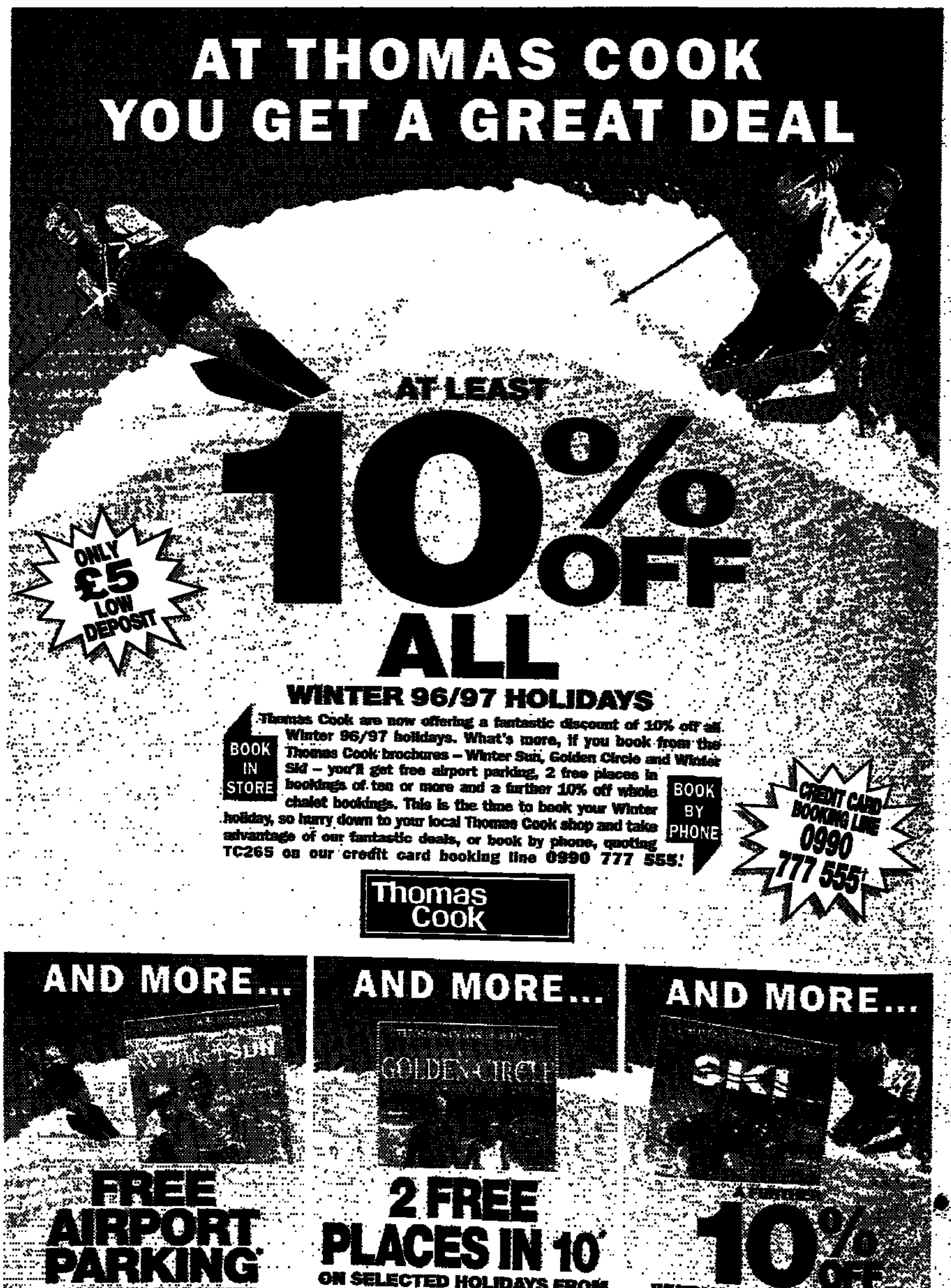

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'Security zone' is sticking point in US peace mission

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

DIPLOMACY

UNDER the shadow of continued bombardments on both sides of Israel's troubled northern border, Warren Christopher's punishing shuttle peace mission was last night moving towards a critical phase. Reports said there were serious difficulties still remaining as Israel's blitz entered its fifteenth day.

As the American Secretary of State held further meetings in Damascus with President Assad, Arab sources said one of the main sticking points was the future of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Shortly before Mr Christopher was due to hold his second session of the day with Mr Assad, Israeli military commanders reported that their jets had struck in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. The commanders said an arms dump, operated by the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, with Syrian connivance, was hit. The dump was used to provide vital weapons supplies to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters.

The Palestinian faction, led by Ahmed Jibril, has its headquarters in Damascus and is so close to the Syrian regime that its press office arranges for foreign journalists to interview Mr Jibril.

Despite the ferocity of Israel's Operation Grapes of Wrath and claims by senior Israeli officers that Hezbollah's capability had been badly hit, Katyusha rockets continued to fall on northern Israel yesterday. By nightfall, three Israeli soldiers had been lightly wounded in one explosion and a woman driver was hit in the neck by shrapnel from another rocket attack.

Earlier Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, came under strong pressure not to give any concession to end the fighting. Mr Peres, campaigning for next month's general elections, said of Mr Christopher's six-day shuttle, and the single-sheet peace plan reputedly rewritten thrice in parts: "I think his efforts have produced important understandings but very serious issues remain unresolved."

American officials accompanying the Secretary of State were similarly downbeat. "We are getting a sense from the dynamics that this is very hard," Nicholas Burns, of the State Department, said.

Before leaving for Israel, Mr Christopher, who was lampooned in the Israeli press after his humiliation at the hands of Mr Assad, who refused to see him on Tuesday, said: "These are differences that can be resolved only by the parties."

According to one official close to the negotiations, the Arabs, supported by France and Russia, are trying to use the conflict to drive Israeli troops out of its "security zone", which they police along with its mercenary South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Hezbollah has vowed to continue its attacks on Israelis as long as its forces remain in the zone, established in 1985. Israel insists that holding on to the strip of land in southern Lebanon is vital to protect its towns and villages in the Galilee from rocket attacks. A senior Israeli source said: "There is no way that we are going to abandon the SLA which has fought beside us in this operation. You have to remember that its commander is under a death sentence handed down by the Government in Beirut."

As the talks continued in Damascus last night, there was speculation that if Mr Christopher failed to secure a result in the next 48 hours, he might consider ending his marathon shuttle diplomacy. But Mr Burns said that Mr Christopher had made no decision on how long he was prepared to stay in the area if no agreement was reached soon. "The Secretary is focused on this half a day at a time," he told reporters from Washington who are travelling with the Secretary's party. "He is not setting any artificial deadlines right now."

Although Arab officials deplore the violence being inflicted on Lebanon, they believe Israel's image abroad is suffering badly as a result of television footage showing Israel's attacks on the civilian infrastructure of the country.

Peres seeks lasers to smash rockets

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

WEAPONS

SHIMON PERES, during his visit to Washington at the weekend, is expected to ask the Clinton Administration to develop a new laser defence system to protect Israel against rockets fired from south Lebanon by Hezbollah fighters.

Israeli officials are said to be anxious to press for development of the Nautilus tactical high-energy laser, a weapons project that has languished in back rooms at the Pentagon since Washington started to pursue its ill-fated "Star Wars" programme in the 1980s.

First developed by TRW Inc, an American defence contractor, in the late 1970s, the laser weapons are now seen by the Israelis as the ideal defence against the short-range Katyusha rockets which have been fired at Israel in the past fortnight by the Iranian-backed guerrillas.

Mr Peres, who also holds the Israeli defence portfolio, will certainly discuss the missile system with William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, and is also likely to raise the subject in meetings with President Clinton.

Two months ago, during a experiment at the White Sands missile range in New Mexico, the US Army used the laser to shoot down two Katyushas captured by the Israelis. The laser, its beam caught on each missile for only seconds, melted the rockets and brought them exploding to the ground.

The Pentagon has included no money for the Nautilus in its new defence budget. However, the Israelis have said that they will inject $20 million (£13 million) of their own funds if America is prepared to spend $50 million for the laser project next year.

Promoters of Nautilus claim that it has clear advantages over well-tested anti-missile systems such as the Patriot. "It is like the world's biggest, hottest welding torch," said Alvin Schnurr, the manager of the army laser programme at TRW.

Yassir Arafat raises his hand in the vote to abandon a clause in the PLO charter calling for Israel's liquidation

Labour ends opposition to Palestine

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S ruling Labour Party yesterday withdrew formal opposition to the creation of an independent Palestinian state, signalling a new turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The decision followed an impassioned plea from Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister and party leader, who said peace was attainable by the turn of the century. The move came a day after the historic decision of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to strike out all references in its charter that call for the destruction of Israel.

The PLO was almost immediately rewarded for the decision when about 30,000 members of the Labour Party met in Tel Aviv yesterday and approved a new programme by an almost unanimous show of hands.

The Labour convention, to mark the official start of the campaign for the May 29 general elections, voted for a new document. A resolution removed a clause from the Labour programme for the 1992 election which ruled out the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

A delighted Mr Peres hailed the PLO decision as the "most important ideological change of the century" for Palestinians after they had formally ended the movement's long-cherished support for an armed struggle. "It's a fundamental change in Israeli-Palestinian relations," he said.

Addressing his own supporters in Tel Aviv yesterday, Mr Peres said: "Our goal is to bring a comprehensive peace to the Middle East during the next four years." That will be the term of the parliament to be elected next month.

The PLO praised the Labour decision and said it was now "just a matter of time" before the Palestinians had their own state. Nabil Amr, an adviser to Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said the move was the "first result of the flexible policy adopted by the PLO".

Despite this progress, unresolved issues still have the potential to unravel the peace process. Chief among these is the future of Jerusalem, which both Jews and Palestinians claim as a religious and political capital.

The Labour convention asserted that Jerusalem was the eternal capital of Israel, rejecting Palestinian demands that the eastern part be the capital of a Palestinian state. Delegates also supported moves to annex parts of the West Bank, where there are Jewish settlements. This is bound to anger the PLO, which says the whole of the West Bank should be handed over to Palestinians.

☐ Gaza: PLO security forces captured Adnan al-Ghoul, number two of the armed wing of Hamas, in Gaza in their pursuit of militants linked to suicide bombings in Israel. Muhammad al-Deif, the Hamas commander, remains a fugitive. *(Reuter)*

Iranians 'sending arms into Lebanon'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IRAN has been sending regular shipments of arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon via Syria in the past few weeks, Western intelligence sources say.

Arms deliveries, including Katyusha launchers and rockets, mines and explosives, have been arriving at Syrian civilian and military airfields before being transported by lorry through the Lebanese Bekaa Valley. One arms shipment was delivered by this route on April 14.

HEZBOLLAH

The sources suspect some arms shipments have been disguised as humanitarian aid for Lebanon. Consignments are also believed to have been concealed in containers and delivered by ship through the Suez Canal. Turkey has served unwittingly as a land transit point for large quantities of weapons for Hezbollah. A consignment was found accidentally at a Syrian frontier post in January.

There were reports last year that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards had been pushing for a direct air link between Tehran and Beirut to bypass Damascus. However, the Lebanese Government had banned direct flights from Tehran because of the fear of arms smuggling.

Last month, an Iranian vessel was apprehended at Antwerp in Belgium with a concealed cargo of explosives. The vessel was bound for Germany where Tehran's intelligence services are known to have a European base.

Iran continues to deny all reports that it is funding and arming Hezbollah.

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Account	Balance	Annual Interest Gross % p.a.	Annual Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.	Monthly Interest Gross % p.a.	Monthly Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.
First Choice§ (Including Bonus)	£50+	1.25	1.00	-	-
	£500+	2.50	2.00	-	-
	£3,000+	3.00	2.40	-	-
	£10,000+	3.55	2.84	-	-
	£25,000+	3.95	3.16	-	-
Special Asset	£2,500+	3.10	2.48	3.00	2.40
	£5,000+	3.45	2.76	3.35	2.68
	£10,000+	4.40	3.52	4.25	3.40
	£20,000+	4.70	3.76	4.50	3.60
	£40,000+	5.00	4.00	4.80	3.84
	£80,000+	5.30	4.24	5.10	4.08
Premier Deposit*	£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-
	£100+	0.75	0.60	-	-
	£10,000+	3.20	2.56	-	-
	£25,000+	3.95	3.16	-	-
Privilege follow-up TESSA# (Including 0.75% p.a. bonus)	£500+	6.00†	-	-	-
	£3,000+	6.50†	-	-	-
	£6,000+	6.75†	-	-	-
	£9,000+	7.00†	-	-	-
Preference follow-up TESSA~ (Including 0.50% p.a. bonus)	£3,001+	6.25†	-	-	-
	£9,000+	6.75†	-	-	-
Special Interest Bond	£500+	5.45	4.36	-	-

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

Account	Balance	Annual Interest Gross % p.a.	Annual Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.	Monthly Interest Gross % p.a.	Monthly Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.
One Month Notice	£1+	2.00	1.60	1.95	1.56
	£2,500+	2.55	2.04	2.45	1.96
	£25,000+	3.50	2.80	3.35	2.68
	£50,000+	4.00	3.20	3.85	3.08
Bonus (Inc. full bonus)	£1,000+	2.65	2.12	-	-
	£10,000+	3.70	2.96	-	-
Option 6 Annual	£2,500+	3.40	2.72	3.25	2.60
	£10,000+	4.45	3.56	4.25	3.40
	£30,000+	4.75	3.80	4.55	3.64
Maturity Bond	£5,000+	5.25	4.20	5.05	4.04
	£25,000+	5.75	4.60	5.55	4.44
Privilege Bond	£5,000+	5.25	4.20	5.05	4.04
	£25,000+	5.75	4.60	5.55	4.44
	£50,000+	5.85	4.68	5.65	4.52
	£100,000+	5.95	4.76	5.75	4.60
Matured TESSAs and Feeder Accounts		3.75	3.00	-	-

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Bosnia hit squads 'trained by Iran to hunt war suspects'

By Tom Rhodes in Washington and Our Foreign Staff

IRANIAN-trained commando units are reported to have been sent by the Bosnian Government to kill or capture those branded war criminals by the fledgling Sarajevo state.

Four men and a woman, members of the Muslim-led *Government's intelligence* arm, the Bosnian Agency for *Investigation and Documentation*, were arrested this *month near the Croatian port* of Rijeka. The five Bosnians, according to *The New York Times*, were carrying grenades, assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and plastic explosives and have been accused of trying to assassinate Fikret Abdic, the renegade Muslim leader.

Sarajevo considers him a *traitor because of attacks he* directed against government *troops, the newspaper said.* The capture of the five has left Western diplomats convinced that the Bosnian Government had given its approval to attacks on those considered war criminals. The most prominent of these, Ratko Mladic, the former Bosnian Serb commander, and Radovan Karadzic, his polit*ical counterpart, are both tar*gets of the International War *Crimes Tribunal, but have* remained in seclusion since the end of the war.

The Bosnian hit squads are said to have been trained by the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security, which Western intelligence agencies say has carried out assassinations of Iranian dissidents in Europe and the Middle East. *Iranian experts are thought to* have recruited the units from the Bosnian government intelligence agency and to have *sent several dozen people to* Tehran for instruction.

The existence of *an exclu*sively Muslim intelligence op*eration within the fragile* Muslim-Croat alliance not *only violates the terms of the* Dayton peace agreement reached in Ohio last year, but also places more pressure on the Clinton Administration.

This week, Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, launched a special investigation into President Clinton's involvement in the Administration's tacit approval as long *ago as 1994 of the smuggling* of Iranian arms to Bosnia. At *the time, the White House* assured Congress and America's *allies that it was adhering* to the terms of a United *Nations arms embargo* against former Yugoslavia.

"*President Clinton's policy* of virtually inviting Iran into *Europe could have disastrous* results for America," Mr *Gingrich said. "The President* undertook this reckless policy *hastily and then kept it secret* from Congress, the American *people and other European* allies."

The White House said it would co-operate with the congressional investigation, although Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, questioned the cost of the investigation. "Given that there are so many committees that the Republicans have *unleashed on this issue, per*haps this will synchronise *some of those efforts and save* the taxpayer some money," he said.

He added, of Mr Gingrich's claims: "It did not give a foothold to Iranians in Bosnia because the Iranians were already there. The Administration ... is more than anxious to tell the story about how we conducted that diplomacy *and what our objectives were* because it led to a very positive outcome."

☐ **Bonn:** Leaders of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation agreed here yesterday to create a joint police force and set up a network of human rights monitors in a deal that they said increased the credibility of their alliance. *(Reuter)*

Abdic: said to have been murder target

A father feeds his child yesterday in a hospital dealing with radiation-related illnesses in Minsk, Belorussia

New leaks mark Chernobyl anniversary

From Lesia Rudakevich in Kiev

ON THE eve of the tenth *anniversary of the world's* worst nuclear accident, small *amounts of radiation* leaked from Chernobyl's fourth reactor.

At the same nuclear power plant which exploded on April 26 1986, a careless change of filters, used to pump air inside the casing covering the crippled reactor, resulted in slight increases of radiation late on Wednesday night. But Oleg Goloskokov, a spokesman at the station, said that the matter was cleared up overnight and posed no danger.

The incident was another embarrassment for Ukraine. On Tuesday, *radioactive dust* and ash billowed into the sky as firefighters battled to contain three separate fires that engulfed abandoned towns, fields and forests in the exclusion zone around the plant. The most serious fire destroyed the town of Tovstiy Lis, on the outskirts of the Red Forest, a line of trees directly west of the nuclear power plant.

"There were increases in radiation in the zone due to the fires," said Andriy Sukharuchkin, deputy chief engi*neer at the Pripyat radiation* monitoring station just outside the Chernobyl plant. "In the most serious cases, people who were fighting the fires were exposed to levels about 20 times higher than usual."

But Mr Sukharuchkin said the contamination was confined to the exclusion zone. "There shouldn't be any panic in Kiev or anywhere else," he said.

The tenth anniversary of the diasater was also marked by *the arrival of fresh humanitar*ian aid. The US Government *flew in 80 tonnes of medicines* to help Ukrainian children and other survivors.

☐ **Miami:** No country has done more than Cuba to provide medical care for the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, according to Ukrainian officials overseeing a children's treatment centre on the island.

Peking's grand designs for colony

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

PLANS were unveiled yesterday to transform central Hong Kong after the handover to China, in a manner reminiscent of Albert Speer's design for Berlin or the Maoist brutalism of Peking's Tiananmen Square.

Raymond Wu and Nicky Chan, two of the 150 Peking-appointed members of the Preparatory Committee which is planning the government here after the transfer of sovereignty next year, and Bosco Ho, a local architect, unveiled the blueprint for the 490,000 square yard site, which will dominate central Hong Kong's harbour side.

The colony's official buildings are presently widely scattered, while Peking has a *distinct* government core.

Under the plan, the east side of a vast "cultural square" will be dominated by new quarters for the chief executive who succeeds Chris Patten, the Governor. It will be four times the size of Government House, where Mr Patten lives, which is to be transformed *into* a museum commemorating 150 years of colonial rule and the 1997 handover.

A *new Legislative Council* building, also four times the *size* of its predecessor which was built in 1901, will be erected on the north side of the square. Flanking the square will be government offices, a new City Hall, the court of final appeal, a huge cultural centre, and a garden. A long ceremonial avenue, 150 yards wide, will run northwards from the square. In the centre will *rise* a statue symbolising the 1997 handover.

Mr Chan said that an expert on *feng shui*, the traditional art of *siting structures in* harmony with natural sur*roundings*, had declared that the plan "would be good for Hong Kong people".

The plan has been presented to the Hong Kong Government and to Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister who is also the Preparatory Committee chairman.

☐ **Rules relaxed:** Hong Kong announced yesterday an easing of rules for legal Chinese immigrants, in effect giving them right of abode from the moment of entry. *(AFP)*

Swiss envoy recalled in disgrace after succumbing to Balkan 'honey-trap'

By Adam LeBor

IT WAS a love affair that spanned the two Europes, from businesslike Berne to Balkan Bucharest. But the passion that ignited in the heat of a Romanian night ended in disgrace in the chilly corridors of the Swiss Foreign Ministry.

Jean-Pierre Vettovaglia, 49, was the Swiss Ambassador to Bucharest, glamorous, rich and influential. Floriana Jucan was a svelte 21-year-old journalist. They enjoyed fast cars, champagne and expensive restaurants. "She was a well-known starlet among parliamentarians. She was always out with top officials," a Bucharest insider said.

But Ms Jucan was not all she seemed, according to officials in the Swiss Foreign Ministry. They believe that Mr Vettovaglia became ensnared in a "honey-trap", an operation in which women intelligence agents seduce men to extract information from them.

The Swiss Foreign Ministry brought home its ambassador, claiming that Ms Jucan was a *Romanian spy.* "He was recalled because he represented a security risk, according to a report which we received from our secret services," a spokesman for the ministry said.

Both Romania's foreign and domestic intelligence services denied that Ms Jucan, who works for the popular *Evenimentul Zilei*, was one of their agents.

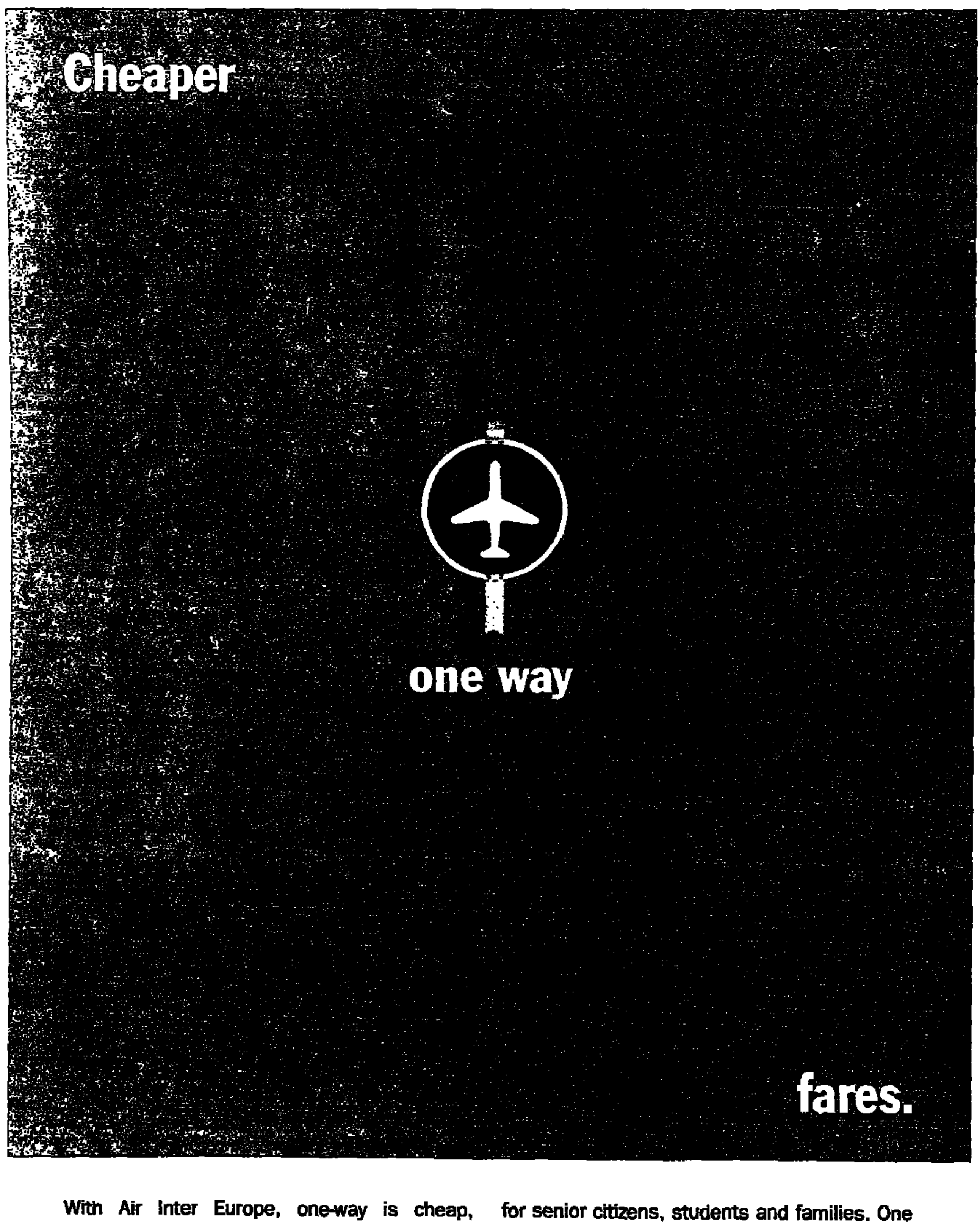
Ms Jucan, who also writes poetry in her spare time, now plans to write a book about the affair. "All I can say is that I am not a secret agent and that the ambassador and I were truly in love," she said. Mihai Gheorghe, a friend of hers, claimed that the Swiss authorities removed Mr Vettovaglia from his post because of differences with the Swiss Foreign Ministry. The ambassador "was in permanent conflict with his superiors in Switzerland and they took advantage of this love affair to discharge him."

According to the Swiss media, Mr Vettovaglia is married and has children. The Romanian press, better known for the enthusiasm with which it pursues a story than for accuracy, has had a field day with reports combining rumour, intrigue and intricate conspiracy theories.

The satirical magazine, *Academia Catavencu*, claimed that Ms Jucan was assigned to get information from Mr Vettovaglia on treasures allegedly deposited in Switzerland by the late dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu.

Some journalists have suggested that Ms Jucan simply seduced him to get a taste of the diplomatic high-life. *Another claimed that the affair had come to light when her Swiss lover became stuck in a lift on a visit to their love-nest, and had to be rescued.*

Ion Cristoiu, chief editor of *Evenimentul Zilei*, said the paper had filed a suit against the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, charging that the allegations against Ms Jucan "blackened the image of my paper". He said the paper was seeking symbolic damages of one leu. There are about 4,650 lei to the pound.



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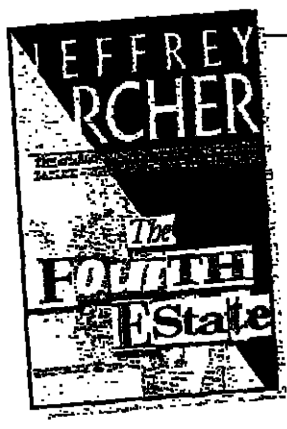
POTTER'S WEAL

"I have watched the first two episodes and can say that if it had been written by anyone with a pulse, it would never have got as far as a pre-production drink in the Groucho. Karaoke is simply dreadful..."

A A Gill on television's idolisation of Dennis Potter.
The Culture, on Sunday



JEFFREY ARCHER

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ANC pays price for radical gestures as the rand slides

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

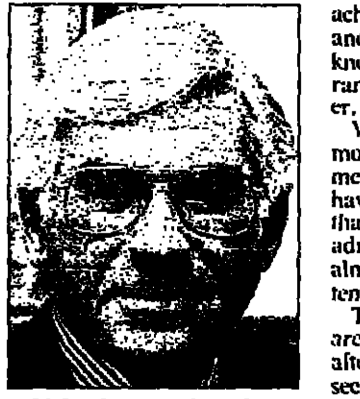
THE collapse of the South African rand is turning into a sort of economic morality fable as the African National Congress-led Government is taught some fairly tough lessons by the money markets.

Yesterday the rand fell by nearly 5 per cent, to 6.70 rands to the pound, bringing the total fall in the currency's value in the past six weeks to more than 20 per cent and producing panicky government reactions as the consequences for inflation and business confidence become clear.

The weakness in the market began with President Mandela's announcement that he hopes to welcome President Castro of Cuba and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to South Africa. It was fed by rumours about President Mandela's health, and then increased with the unexpected resignation of Chris Liebenberg, the Finance Minister and a non-party banker, and his replacement by Trevor Manuel, an ANC activist with no real financial experience.

Mr Manuel appeared to take the rand's fall as a slur on his competence and, with the currency then at four rands to the dollar, vowed angrily that speculators would "lose their shirts" and poured scorn on "this ephemeral thing called the market". The market, however, was deeply unimpressed and the currency fell to 4.12 rands to the dollar.

Mr Manuel, accompanied by Mr Liebenberg, then set off to Wall Street to try to reassure bankers and investors, but his mission was effectively undermined by the visit to Libya of Alfred Nzo, the Foreign Minister, who signed an accord supporting Libya over the Lockerbie bombing. The market reacted badly, not so much because of British and American anger over the matter, as from the larger impression of a Government that seems not to understand the international environment.


Liebenberg: resignation fed market's weakness

One American investor summed it up a few weeks ago when, at the height of a Hamas terror campaign in Israel, President Mandela said he would be happy to meet Hamas representatives. "A Government that does that sort of thing is flaky. It does not seem to know or care what international sensibilities are in either the political or economic field." By then, the currency was down to 4.25 rands to the dollar.

The trade union federation, Cosatu, then announced a general strike for next Tuesday against the employers' right to lock out strikers. Despite the fact that the ANC had agreed on this provision in constitutional negotiations, the ANC then decided to support the strike. The rand plummeted to 4.38. Yesterday, President Mandela tried to calm nerves by suggesting, mysteriously, that the strike was really about blacks achieving parity with whites and that sensible investors knew that perfectly well. The rand continued to fall, however, closing at 4.48 last night.

With the Mandela honeymoon now clearly over, commentators in South Africa have been alarmed to discover that the Government is maladroit, indecisive and that, in almost every policy area, it tends to dither and drift.

Typically, policy changes are often denied a day or two after they are made and there seems to be no fixity or backbone in almost any area of government policy.

ANC officials sound bewildered by what is happening, sometimes inveighing against the market, sometimes suggesting that investors are merely racists.

The harsh truth is that the world's money markets move to a different beat. Painfully slowly, the Government is learning that all its gestures towards President Castro or the Libyan leader Gaddafi, its instinctive wish to be on the side of the unions, and even its angry rhetoric, have a price.

Veteran Pat Lee with a wartime helmet bearing a tribute to fallen comrades at the Anzac Day parade in Sydney

New Australian leader acts to save flag

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

THE Australian flag is to be enshrined in law, preventing any change without the consent of the people, John Howard, the Prime Minister, said yesterday.

The newly elected leader, who made the announcement on Anzac Day, said the move would protect the national symbol from politicians and special interest groups who tried to tamper with the design. The future of the distinctive blue flag, with its six stars and the Union Jack in the top left-hand corner, had been at the centre of debate during Paul Keating's rule. The former Labor Prime Minister initially saw a change in the flag as part of Australia's progress towards a republic. He later separated the flag issue from the republican debate, after increasing support for the design.

Mr Howard, an avowed monarchist, made it clear during the election campaign that the design would not be altered without the consent of the people. He could not have chosen a more appropriate date to secure the future of what he called "our great national symbol". Anzac Day brought thousands on to the streets to remember those who fought and died under the flag.

An amendment to the Flag Act will mean that it will be as difficult to change the flag as it is to alter the constitution. Kim Beazley, the Labor leader, said: "It's a crass political point to make."

Photograph, page 24

Lizard of Oz bites head off snapper

FROM DAVID BENTLEY
IN PORT DOUGLAS
NORTH QUEENSLAND

PAUL KEATING'S style has always been distinguished by a pithy command of street language. During his five-year reign as Australian Prime Minister, he treated many editors and adversaries to colourful terms of abuse.

Clowns, barnyard bullies, stunned mullets, mangy maggots, pissants, dullards, cheats, ninnies, dummies and scumbags are just a few of the jibes to fall from his lips.

In his latest brush with the media, at this chic North Queensland resort, the defeated former Labor leader — dubbed the Lizard of Oz by royalists after he broke with protocol and put his arm round the Queen — flew into a fury when Ray Cash, a photographer with Brisbane's The Courier-Mail, snapped him disembarking from a luxury catamaran. "Low-life grub," he told Mr Cash, jabbing his chest with his forefinger.

Mr Cash had been shooting sunsets when the vessel sailed into view. When Mr Keating stepped on to the gangplank, Mr Cash quite naturally took a photograph.

Mr Keating later contacted The Courier-Mail demanding that his picture not be published. He must have assumed, mistakenly, that the hounds of the press were on his trail, pre-empting his carefully orchestrated exit from public life.

Imran Khan announces the launch of his Justice Movement at a Lahore press conference yesterday

Imran opens his political innings

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN LAHORE

IMRAN KHAN yesterday ended months of speculation as he launched the Justice Movement (Tehreek-e-Insaaf), believed to be his first step towards forming a fully fledged political party. Until recently, he had denied that he had any political ambition.

The former Pakistan cricket captain said in Lahore: "The main objective of this movement is to strive for a change in the country by demanding justice, honesty and self-respect for the people."

Visibly nervous at his maiden press conference as a politician, Mr Khan made a passionate appeal to Pakistanis to join him in the fight against corruption and injustice and in the creation of an equitable social system. "I have entered into politics because when the country is moving towards disaster no one can sit on the sidelines."

Mr Khan was vague and evasive on policy relating to the status of women and on the economy. It is also not clear who the other people are at the nucleus of the movement. In his prepared statement Mr Khan did not mention Islam, though in the past he was seen as ideologically close to some Islamic groups.

His announcement came just two weeks after a bomb destroyed part of his charitable cancer hospital. Mr Khan, 43, alleged that the blast was politically motivated.

He said yesterday that his decision to enter politics may endanger both his life and that of Jemima, his wife. "But I'm not afraid of death. I have faith in God," he told the press conference.

Mr Khan said his wife was fully committed to his political struggle and would always stand by him. "But it is up to her to decide about her role in the movement," he declared.

The charismatic cricketer, popular among the urban middle classes, may provide Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, with her most serious political rival to date.

Tokyo cult disciples 'killed to save souls'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT
IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE cult leader preached that murder committed at his bidding was a religious act liberating the souls of both victim and killer, a Tokyo court was told yesterday.

Shoko Asahara's teaching filled the heads of those of his disciples who carried out last year's nerve-gas attack on the city's underground, prosecutors said on the second day of a trial that has transfixed the nation. After the March 1995 attack, which killed 11 people and poisoned thousands, he praised followers who carried out the crime, welcoming them back with sweet rice cakes and juice, they added.

The prosecution statement quoted the guru as telling the disciples: "Meditate. And chant ten thousand times the phrase, 'This is good, with the blessing of the guru, the great god Shiva [the Hindu god of creation and destruction] and all the victors of truth'."

"If the guru orders the killing of someone it means it's time for that person to die," prosecutors quoted Mr Asahara, 41, leader of Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth Sect) as saying.

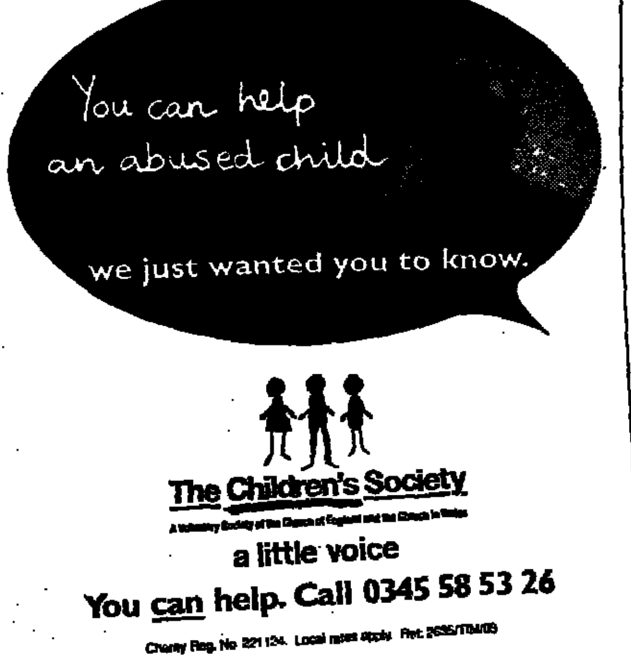
In the trial's first phase, which finished yesterday, the prosecution concentrated on Mr Asahara's role as the alleged instigator of mass murder, and two other alleged offences: the killing of an Aum follower, Kotaro Ochida, and the illegal production of a "truth serum", thiopental, and barbiturates.

The half-blind, bearded guru sat impassively as the court was told of the life-and-death power he wielded over cult members, forced to treat him as a "living incarnation of God".

He did not dirty his own hands with murder. When Ochida incurred his wrath by trying to rescue a woman from the Doomsday sect, he ordered another disciple to eliminate him. Prosecutors described how Ochida, a pharmacist at an Aum Shinrikyo hospital, was strangled in front of the guru in January 1994.

At first "saved" victims were dissident disciples or people opposed to the sect, but later Mr Asahara widened the teaching to justify indiscriminate slaughter.

Prosecutors believe they can show that Mr Asahara, facing 17 charges, was a mastermind who sent out lieutenants on deadly missions. He has refused to enter a plea and faces a death sentence if convicted of any of the murder charges.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How Irina's babies proved the KGB wrong

Mary Riddell on the joyful outcome to a dissident's nightmare

The twins had slid down from their chairs and were playing under the table when they sensed a rare crumb of interest in the drone of the dinner guests' conversation. Sergei saved his question until he and his brother, Oleg, had their mother's full attention. "Have you been in prison, mum?" he asked.

Irina Ratushinskaya had hoped to delay this inquisition. The boys, at four years old, were still at the age when persecution meant having to study their Russian alphabet. But she tried.

"I had to answer them honestly, but I kept it as cheerful as possible. Tell them sufficient, but not enough to give them night terrors."

"Yes, I was," she told her sons — children of the West, with their toys and their smart clothes. "Some evil people locked me up, but they had to let me go." And she smiled reassuringly at them, grateful that she could omit so much.

One day they would know the truth. One day she would rehearse for them the moment when her head slammed into a wooden beam as her KGB torturers hurled her across a cell. The nights when mice crawled across her frozen face and the days of inscribing her forbidden poems, first on bars of soap and then on cigarette papers that might be smuggled from the concentration camp. And they would discover, too, although not from her, that they were never meant to be born.

When Irina was sentenced to seven years in a concentration camp, plus five more in exile for her poetry and her human rights activities, she knew she would die. "I was claustrophobic, and I believed that I would die in the first days, just from being locked up." Instead she was to learn that death could seem the kinder option. For three years, she did not know whether her husband, Igor, a fellow dissident, was alive. And even if he survived and she escaped, she knew her dream of a family would never be fulfilled. The guards told her that frequently, as she sat in her cell.

"It was simply freezing there. Women must not be frozen to that degree, otherwise it makes it impossible to conceive." Exactly a decade ago, on the eve of the Reykjavik summit, Irina was released after her poems, smuggled out of Russia, had alerted the West to her plight.

Last week her fifth book was published. Her first novel, it is an epic account of the progress of three families through the First World War and the Bolshevik Revolution. It is also the book that paid for her sons' existence.

> 'I had five operations to clear up infections caused by the cold'

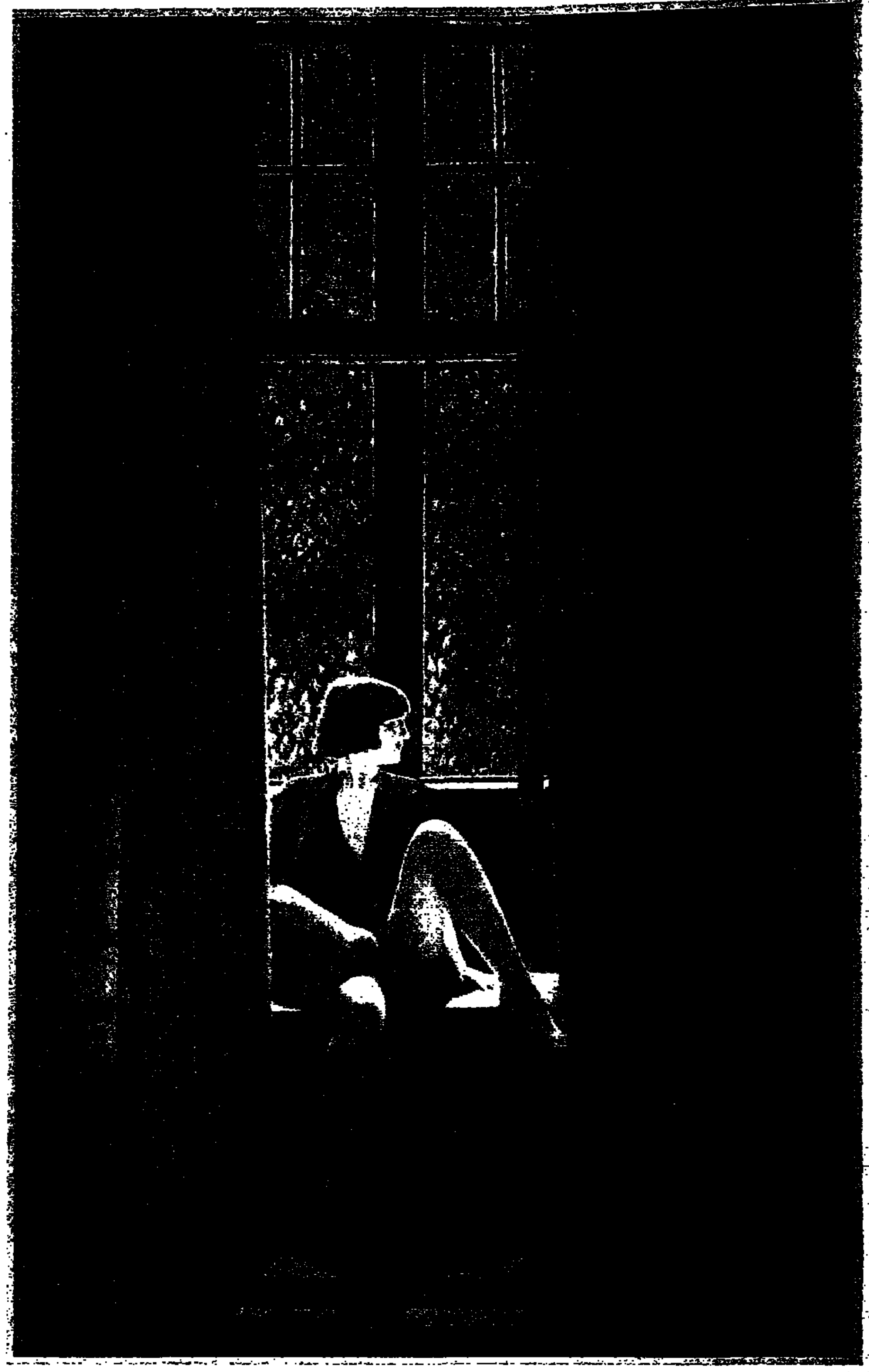
Adamant that she could countermand the assertion that she would never have children, Irina — still gravely ill with the heart and kidney problems induced by her captivity — began a three-year programme of fertility treatment. Refused NHS help, she decided her writing must pay the bills.

"I had five operations to clean up the damage from the inflammation and infections caused by the cold. I spent a fortune, but Igor and I were determined." She was 38 when her doctors confirmed that she was pregnant and the ecstasy lasted until the day when, still breast-feeding her infant sons, she realised that she must settle her bills.

● The Odessans. *Sceptre (£16.99)*

Who wants to be alone?

New reports chart a rise in the number of people who claim to be happy to live alone. But most are just experts at concealment, says Candida Crewe


THE BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY

Lonely people have to learn the best way to keep their loneliness a secret and appear outwardly happy

ONE of the many unbearable aspects of loneliness is that one must never show it. Loneliness lets off a little stench that other people don't want to smell. So it is that all the lonely people must do their utmost to keep their loneliness a secret. Just as fat people cover in voluminous black clothes what they have been led to believe is their offending flesh, so must lonely people cover themselves in brave smiles.

Young people, more and more of whom are living alone, have become quite the experts at concealment, to the extent that Mintel, the marketing research organisation, and the British Youth Council recently reported that "sad, lonely singles" no longer exist. In fact, they claim, "coupledom doesn't appear to be quite the cherished notion it was ten years ago". By the end of the century there will be eight million single households, compared with the 6.8 million recorded at the end of 1995. "Happy singles" far outnumber lonely singles, apparently.

Oh yes? And where exactly are all these single people, then, who love themselves so much that they can eschew the company of a mate with all the confidence of a genuine hermit in a cave? Have you ever met one? And I don't mean those who say they love to be alone. Most lonely people have learnt the art of pretending that they do. I mean those — other than monks, nuns, solitary cave-dwellers and, at a push, Greta Garbo — who really love it. There are very few who mean it when they say they do. Very, very few. For the majority it's a case of protesting just a bit too much when they extol the virtues of smoking in bed and eating peanut butter sandwiches at three in the morning without inviting critical comment.

The state of being on one's own divides into two categories. One is negative: loneliness. The other is positive: solitude.

But solitude is on the whole the luxury of one who is not spiritually alone. By that I mean, it is the luxury of those of a religious bent, the nun or monk, say, who, in silent contemplation, is confident that he or she has the love of God; or of those who can enjoy a few hours alone with a book, maybe, or in the garden, in the sure knowledge that they can go back inside anytime to the partner, spouse or family who loves them.

Loneliness is to be alone and aware that one's existence is devoid of another person's love. Some people who have difficulties forming and maintaining stable relationships reach the conclusion that to be alone is better than to become involved in yet another doomed arrangement. So it is that they make the best of being lonely, they put on the fixed smile, even begin to boast of the (let's face it, dubious) pleasures of staying in a dressing gown all day or sleeping around for kicks. In fact, they learn to cope to such an extent that people praise them for their independence. But were anyone to bother to look behind the defensive mask, they would be hard-pressed to find a "happy single" who wouldn't prefer a good relationship to being alone.

People don't choose loneliness. It is forced upon them through circumstance (divorce, bereavement, alcoholism, homelessness), or through what they perceive to be the inadequacies of their own personality ("I don't deserve to be loved by anyone, I don't deserve to be happy"). They learn the best ways of dealing with it, exploit the few — rather perverse — advantages of being on their own for all they are worth, and delude themselves they are better off without the irritations of another person.

I know. I lived and worked, and was essentially on my own for ten years, and sometimes was as lonely as hell. All my girlfriends advised, whatever happens don't show it or you'll give off the wrong vibes to men. So I learnt every trick in the book to get by. To all intents and purposes, except to my closest friends, I tried to play the part of one of these so-called "happy singles". I'm sure most people saw through it, but not all. One male friend even said: "Candida doesn't want anybody, she likes being on her own."

I didn't like being on my own. I'd just built up a (moderately) successful defence. I sometimes even managed to convince myself to such a degree that I worried about the prospect of anyone moving in with me. Their presence would disrupt all my specially devised habits and routines. But I learnt later these were only ever there in the first place as a means of coping with loneliness. When someone, the right person, did come along all these carefully constructed habits and routines became remarkable for their insignificance, and were discarded like litter.

One of the most important lessons my mother taught me was how to be alone and get the best out of it. But this she taught me for survival reasons, should the occasion arise, not because she thought I was voluntarily going to opt for a life on my own. Well, the occasion did arise, and arise, and arise, and arise, and I've brought to bear some thoughts on the matter in my new novel, *Falling Away*, because I think loneliness is a subject we tend not to dwell on, perhaps because of that stench it gives off. When people ask me what the book is about, and I say loneliness, every one of them gives me a knowing look as if to say, "I've had a fair share of that myself".

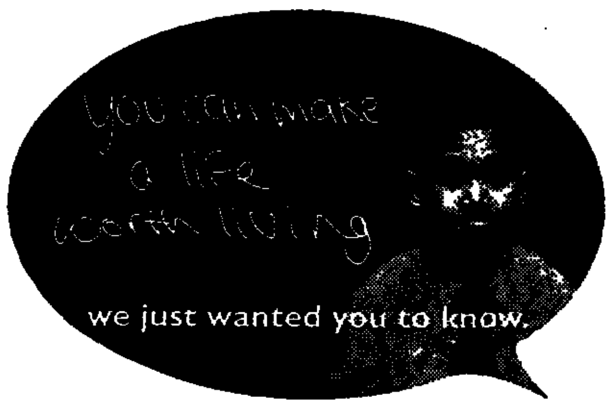
> 'Loneliness lets off a little stench that other people don't want to smell'

The truth is that man is a sociable animal, and not designed to be alone. But by 2000, 30 per cent of the UK population will form one-person households. Why? Because of ever-increasing divorce rates and longer life expectancy, believe me, not because of people "happily" choosing to be single.

Of course some people choose to end a bad marriage or relationship knowing full well the alternative is — for a period at least — to be alone. My mother always said it is better to be alone than lonely within a marriage, and with this I agree. But the number of people — especially women — who remain in abusive relationships because they are so frightened of being on their own, regarding it as an even worse alternative to constant domestic violence, is testimony to how much stigma and fear we attach to loneliness.

This, of course, should not be the case. As circumstances dictate that more and more of us are ending up alone, we are going to have to learn that loneliness, while miserable, is not something of which to be ashamed. What lonely people need is company, not the added burden of having to appear merry when they are not. Perpetuating the myth of the "happy" single is not going to help them. They should be able happily to come out of the closet and say they are bloody miserable. And when they do so, they should be greeted not like rabid dogs, but with love and understanding.

● Falling Away, *Century, £12.99, is published on May 2.*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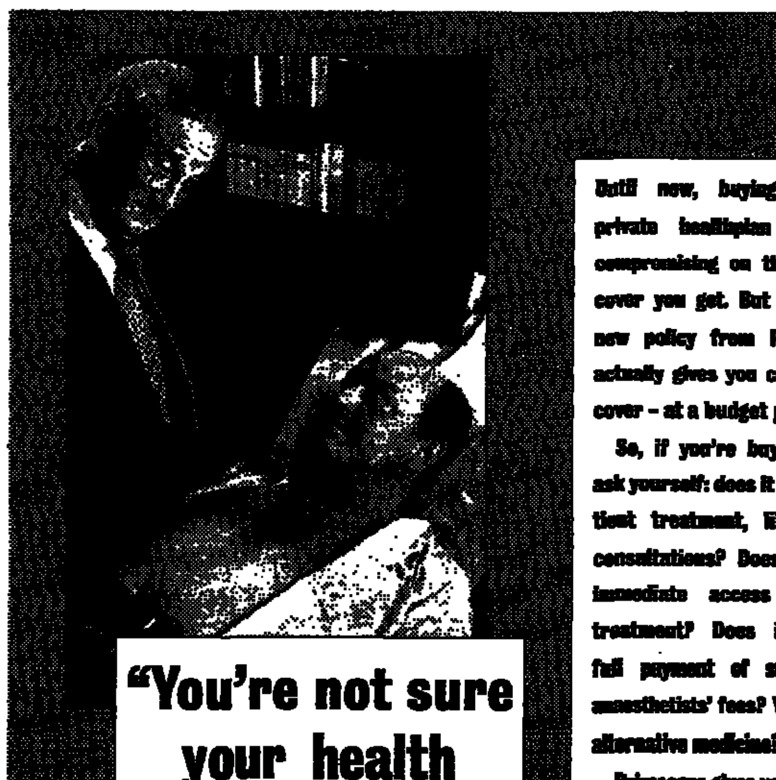

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'Loneliness lets off a little stench that other people don't want to smell'

The legal maverick who enjoys being a law unto himself

My jokes are my undoing, claims the controversial president of the Law Society

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

"If I were a woman," Martin Mears says, "you may ask, would I be president of the Law Society? My answer would be yes. As you know, I have seven children. But I would have gone to great efforts."

I am visiting the Law Society's president, because last weekend he addressed the Women Lawyers' Conference and — surrounded by "the enemy" — boldly told them what he thought of their feminist initiatives. Women, he reminded them, were now doing extremely well in the law. The new chairman of the Law Commission, the head of the Crown Prosecution Service, the Law Society's secretary-general, all are women.

If Mr Mears had gone along with the orthodoxy he might have spouted about how women still face prejudice and have far to go — as did David Penry-Davey, QC. Instead, deploying mocking irony ("always a mistake, among militants") he demonstrated that women did not need to demand special privileges, and that a women's conference subtitled "Changing the Culture" was unnecessary: the culture had so plainly changed. Having aimed some final barbs at "discrimination zealots who thrive on heresy-hunting" and "whinge factories", he sat down to a frosty silence.

What Mr Mears said is incontrovertible. Only 70 years since the first woman barrister qualified, women lawyers have done several centuries' worth of catching up in seven decades — a matter for celebration. But the Hansard Society reports that women solicitors (now the majority entering the profession) remain less likely than men to become partners. The current orthodoxy is that they should.

Mr Mears challenges all orthodoxies. He is unpredictable, heretical, a maverick, a wild card, a "force of darkness" (Eileen Pembridge, his rival for the presidency). "A man with all the finesse and kindly sensitivity of a deaf-blind rhino" (Libby Purves). In fact he is a slight, jovial, red-faced man, who speaks forthrightly in the tones of South Wales (where he was brought up) and says: "My jokes are my undoing."

The Law Society stands on Chancery Lane. Lawyers, unlike foolish newspapermen, are too wily ever to let go of their priceless territory in the heart of London. Just round the corner is what Mr Mears calls The Mansion — his grace-and-favour residence, a white Georgian house with splendid staircase, marble chimneypieces, fine old panelling. Lucky him. Yes, it is very splendid, he says, sitting at a long dining-table, taking breakfast: "But I can tell you, you would not like living here." (His own home, near Beccles, is just as fine.)

Last summer he carried off the presidency in the first contested election in 40 years, with 11,000 votes, ousting the obvious London candidate, Henry Hodge (8,000 votes) and Ms Pembridge (3,000) — "yet I was a complete outsider". He galloped home on a populist ticket to save the high street solicitor and challenge bureaucracy.

"Arr, spike my grunions," Mr Mears says, affecting the Colmans Mustard burr that people expect of a rural backwoodsman. But no bumpkin he. At Oxford (Wadham) he was an exact contemporary of Melvyn Bragg — then a "Lucky Jim lookalike in horn-rimmed glasses who showed no sign of becoming a media star". Nor did Mr Mears; he played chess for Oxford, but never spoke at the Union. Once articled, Norfolk claimed him because the salary was tempting, and he wanted to run his own show. It affords him "a very good life".

Suppose he had been born Margaret Mears: how would he have become president of the Law Society? I point out that women such as Barbara Mills and Mrs Justice Arden — with four and three children respectively — achieved their distinction by exceptional determination and rigorous organisation. "Just a minute," says Mr Mears. "If I had had to bring my children up myself I would do what any working woman has to do: I would employ nannies. That is an option not available to everyone, only to women with money — but these are women with money.

"I will only say this: women solicitors do not face deliberate ill-will, prejudice or discrimination. Their problem, if they are professionally ambitious, is in combining this with their families. In many cases this is their own choice."

Bothersome women are but one item on Mr Mears's busy agenda. A larger one is raising conveyancing fees — not easy to sell to the public. How can firms charge a mere £140 for a transaction that should take several hours at £100 an hour? "The public demands irreconcilable things: a first-class professional job, but not at professional fees." I murmur that you can do your own conveyancing. "And your own brain surgery," he rejoins. "Have you seen the conveyancing textbook? Emmett on Title is about 1,000 pages thick."

Another concern is that the profession increases every year by several thousand young people newly out of law courses, with overdrafts and no jobs. "The orthodoxy here is, leave it to the free market. The Law Society is one of the few remaining bastions of Thatcherism, with a divine faith in the free market, never mind how many dead bodies there may be along the way.

"I am accused of protectionism, when I say that a profession should have the right to control its numbers. They call me a King Canute." The failure of Thatcherism is a running theme of his speeches. "In the mid 80s I thought she was the saviour of the country," he says. Now he declares that Thatcherism destroyed institutions and respect for professions.

As a man of many opinions, Mr Mears makes a hobby of writing for the newspapers; he had just delivered another blast at militant feminism to the Eastern Daily Press. He is also much written about, most memorably by The Mail on Sunday which revealed him to be a divorcé now living with a woman whom he chooses not to marry. "It said, here is this man, divorced himself, setting himself up as a family values man — which I never did. All I said was that divorce should not be excessively easy, and that new reforms would make things worse.

"They interviewed my former wife and dug up the dirt. For God's sake, I've been separated nearly nine years, and they asked her what she thought of me. Well, what do you expect former wives to say?" (The former Mrs Mears, Austrian-born, said she was stuck in the sticks, "a bird in a cage", with their five children.)

He now shares his home with Susan Greenwood, a personal injuries solicitor, and their two young children. Why not marry? "Once bitten . . ." he says. "I must say I can never understand anyone doing it twice.

"Do journalists reflect on why they are so unpopular?" he asks me. "I see today that some barrister has been outed for going to a gay sauna and had to resign his recordership. That is absolutely despicable. How can journalists gratuitously ruin another person's life and then sleep at night?"

However loathsome the journalist and the politician, the lawyer comes fairly close in the lists. Mr Mears was going to discuss, that day, an advertising campaign to improve the image of solicitors. "Richard Branson is quoted as saying, 'in America there are more lawyers than people'," he laughs. "Lawyers are perennially unpopular."

Thatcherism deprived Martin Mears of his knighthood, previously a perquisite for Law Society presidents. He is determined to stand for re-election (unprecedented) to the presidency this summer. Meanwhile he is in line for another prize. At a dinner tonight, Martin Mears will be one of the three contenders — the others are Cherie Blair and Sir Richard Scott — for The Lawyer magazine's "Legal Personality of the Year". Its editor is a woman.

ANDRE CAMARA

Martin Mears, who became president of the Law Society in the first contested election in 40 years

Pulling power of powder and paint

Women wearing make-up are not oppressed, says **Tunku Varadarajan**, they are beautifully empowered and irresistibly ready to conquer

So much flapdoodle has been written about make-up that it is time for us to rescue the female face from the foundation-free bog into which some women would wish to thrust it. A made-up woman's face is a sight pleasing to all. Men always notice one, as do most women, most perky passers-by, customers in shops, and appreciative colleagues at the office, so jaded by the sight of screen and paperwork. (I speak here, of course, only of those women who know make-up's measure, not of those who would coat themselves as if for some Nubian ritual: the "coaters" are barbarians, and enemies of female beauty.)

Yet make-up is more than just a basis of bloom. The candid truth is that there is power in powder. Elizabeth Hurley (the best-known woman in Britain after the Queen, the Princess of Wales, Pamela Anderson and Baroness Thatcher) revealed recently that she has never once left home, since she was a teenager, without her make-up on. Purblind feminist observers, bien sûr, will raise their cacophony: "Imagine the oppression. She can't even leave home to buy a newspaper from the corner shop without her eye-shadow carefully set in place. Poor woman!" But these critics miss the point as surely as their faces must miss eye-shadow.

Clever woman, that Liz Hurley, is all I can say. She understands the allure of make-up in a man's world as well as its clout. Used astutely, it is the closest thing we have in our etiolated urban jungle to war-paint. Make-up, far from consigning women to the role of wee little creatures, empowers them. Take bright red lipstick. The colour of blood, it provokes in man his most atavistic insecurities . . . and a woman's words, spoken through this thread of scarlet, acquire a magnetic force that few men can resist. Her red-lipped beauty, as Saki put it, is sin deep.

Liz Hurley understands the allure of make-up

But the make-up compact has been buffeted by a variety of opposition through history, and it should be sobering to today's feminist tendencies that they had an early ally in Tertullian. This Christian father from the 3rd century — a severe sort of fogey who raged constantly about women and sex — had this to say about make-up: "Against Him those women sin who torment their skins with potions, stain their cheeks with rouge and extend the line of their eyes with black colouring. Doubtless they are dissatisfied with God's plastic skill. In their own persons they convict and censure the Artificer of all things."

Make-up, to paraphrase old Tertullian, is provocative. That is its strength. Not only is it a way for women "dissatisfied with God's plastic skill" — and He does not always do a good job, to be honest — to look more alluring if they want to, it gives them a form of expression as powerful as words and sounds, a language in which no man can share. It is a language, however, for which all men should be thankful.

Watch a woman at a table in a restaurant. She has eaten her dinner and her male friend is, quite correctly, paying the bill. As he finishes, she takes out her compact, dusts her face lightly with powder, refreshes the colour on her lips and inspects herself in her little "devil's looking glass". She then smiles, replacing her compact slowly into her purse. Every woman is at heart a rake. Game, set and match to make-up.

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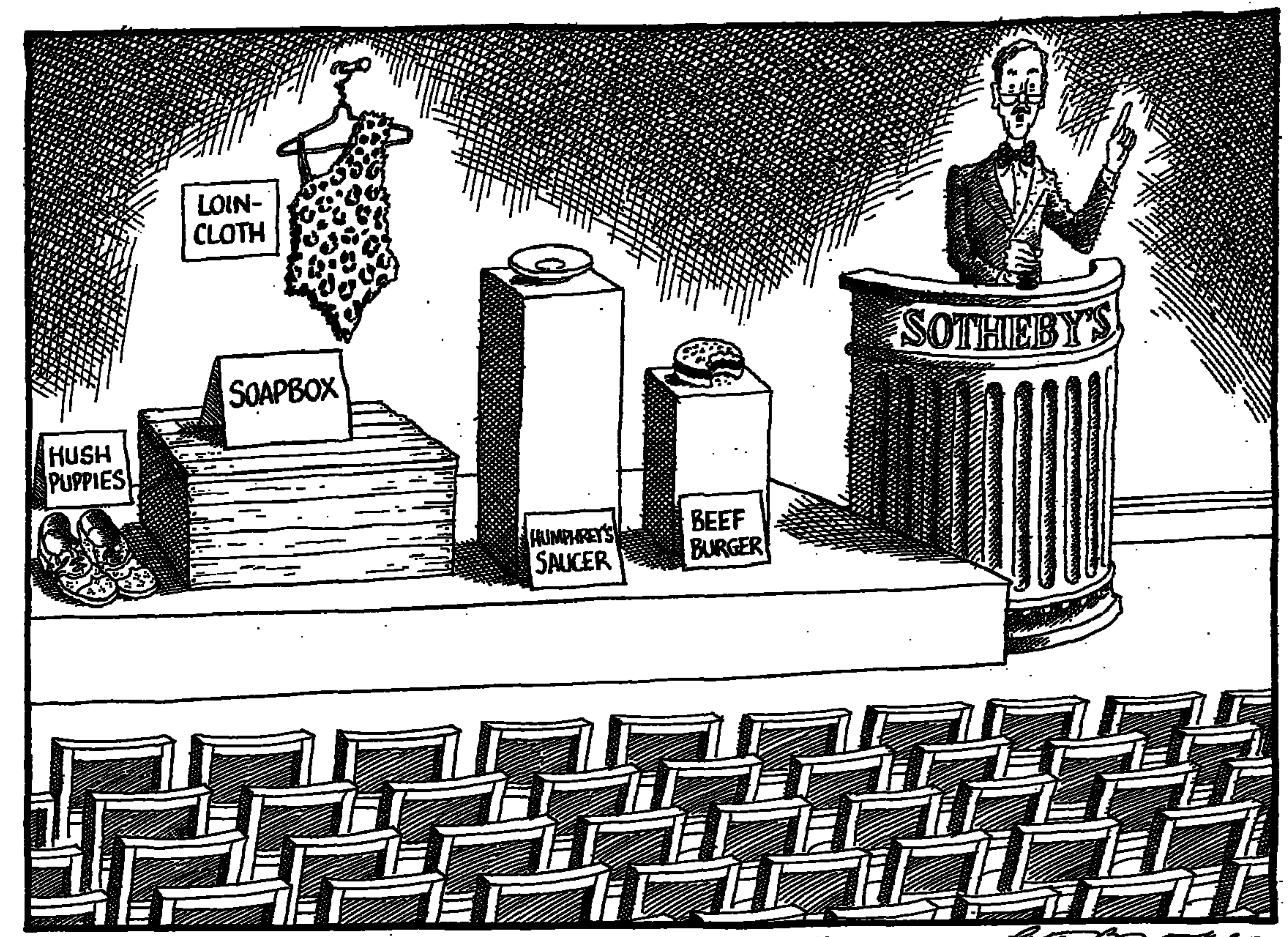
Philip Howard

■ Hail Caesar! This was the unkindest week of all

A fragment from *The Hysterical Tragedy and Lamentable Comedy of the Assassination of the Tory Party*, signed W.S., and recently authenticated by a German Shakespearean professor.

Trumpets, signature tunes of news programmes, portentous boings and pips. Enter Caesar Major and Tarzanus Senior, surrounded by a rabble of television crews, sound-booms, pollsters, spin-doctors, leader-writers, Senators and other conspirators.

Caesar Major: Who is it in the press that calls on me?
I hear a tongue ruder than all *Today*
Cry "Major!" Speak. Major is not inconsiderably inclined to hear. Oh no.
Soothsayer: Beware the Huns and Frogs.
Major: What man is that?
Tarzanus: It is *The Sun*, and red is its hotline.
He calleth on thee to make up thy mind.
An Euro for thy thoughts.
Major: He is a dreamer. Let us leave him. Pass.
Th'extreme Plebeian view still has its day
I'the *Sun*, but lasteth only for a day.
It will be back before election time.
My resolution's like the River Thames,
Whose muddy current and compulsive course
Sweeps daily on from Tilbury to Teddington
But then ebbs back again — twice daily.
Those bastards live in cloud-cuckoo-terra
If they imagine we can still survive
As Little England on Europa's skirts.
They are a tassel short of a full toga,
A cohort short of a legion. On t'other hand
If our confederate allies in th' EU,
"That bloody bunch of shits" in Caesar's words,
Refuse to take our beef, I'll do such things.
What they are yet I know not, — but they shall be
The terrors of the European Court.
Rubens Lignum, A Conspirator: Now, gods, stand up for bastards.
Major: And who on earth is that?
Tarzanus: Mark him well, Major. He would have thy crown.
He is the Redwood and he loves thee not.
Nor Europe neither, so far as one can tell.
Major: Let me have men about me that wear specs.
Blear-eyed men and such as blink and squint.
Yond' Redwood has a pop-eyed, fanatic glare.
He plots too much: such men are dangerous.
Eques Aurifex, a Sestertius billionaire from Gaul and Mexico and a friend of Trimalchio: Hail Caesar! Referendum nobis omnia.
Non tibi gloria: nil nisi referendum.
Never mind the question. On with the suffrages.
Vote early and vote often and vote Non.
Vivat Steve Forbes! Vivat ille Ross Perot!
Vivant all mercatores turned politicos!
Who know which side sliced bread is margarined on.
Caesar, your Senate's record in negotiis
With Europe is not strength but feebleness.
You have slipped down the primrose path
Towards the abhorrent bonfire of Brussels.
Major: Veni, Vidi, Weedy. Not indecisively.
O Aurifex, I do not rule out a referendum.
But I would not rule it in either,
For I have made our locus crystal clear.
The Senate's decision on the referendum,
Whether to rule it in or rule it out,
Or neither, as events may sometimes intervene,
Will be taken at such a time and place
Which hath yet to be ruled in or out.
Oh yes. These are Caesar's no-nonsense words.
Those who deliberately misunderstand them
Incur great Caesar's wrath. At the very least,
I shall be not inconsiderably vexed.
Aurifex (aside to Redwood):
Translate, precor.
I am a simple patriot from overseas,
And do not understand your tongue of Question Time.
He doth bestride our narrow world like Mr Bean.
But I observe your Senators
Of all parties, persuasions, races, ages, sex,
Europhobes, Eurobores and EuroSeptics,
Are the ugliest bunch that I have ever seen —
Including journalists. Be constant, Rubens,
And I may win you Caesar's laurel crown.



"What am I bid...?"

Peter Brookes 26 iv 96

Odd volumes of stuff

A catalogue of literary curiosities evokes forgotten ventures into the unknown

Bernard Levin

I have never been a collector of books just for their covers and their dates of publication, much less for their bindings. As far as I am concerned, a book is something to read, and nothing else. Of course, I can and do admire a beautiful book as an object, as I would a picture or a jewel: I have had copies of my own 15 books beautifully bound, and I am not above running my fingertips over the lovely leather (tactile pleasures are just as worthy as the others). Moreover, I am a lifelong book sniffer — many an odd look I have had from many a bookseller.

But all of a sudden there came through my letter-box a booklet, handsomely put together, its beautiful pages hungry for sniffing, carefully illustrated, and a pleasure to handle. This, I realised, was a bookseller's catalogue, but it was in the category of rare books — and rare they must be, when some of them are priced in thousands, and indeed one would set you back no less than £28,000 (credit cards not accepted).

But you must remember that I am not looking at these books for their contents. Or that was what I thought as I flipped the pages, but in only a few moments I found myself steeped in the most fascinating and *recherché* matter, from which I could hardly extricate myself, and did not want to.

The very first item that caught my eye — and well it might — was labelled plainly "Lunacy", and the title reads: *Observations on the Nature, Kinds, Causes and Preventions of Insanity, Lunacy or Madness*. I assumed that it was some crude and meaningless item — the date was 1782 — and the author, Thomas Arnold, meant nothing to me. But then I looked at the bookseller's commentary.

> One of the seminal works in the history of psychiatry. Arnold ran a private madhouse in Leicester, and from 1794 was head of the Leicester Lunatic Asylum . . . He made two main divisions . . . hallucinatory and delusion insanity, with numerous subdivisions supported by case histories gathered from the literature and his own practice, some of which read like descriptions in modern textbooks . . .

Now who would think that such treasure trove was lurking in the calm recesses of Mr J.F.T. Rodgers's "100 Rare Books on 100 Different Subjects"? Not I. Nor did I think that I would have found myself in the middle of an argument between a leading astronomer and Voltaire, and even if I had, I would not have imagined that Mr Rodgers would sign off so coolly — referring to the astronomer — with "He was executed in 1793".

What about Edward Barlow with his *Meteorological Essays, Concerning the Origin of Springs, Generation of Rain, and Production of Wind. With a Rational and Historical Account of the Causes and Course of the Tide: Its propagation thro' the Great Ocean*? Charming, you would say, and so it is. But Mr Rodgers is so profligate with his knowledge that when he has finished with the wind and the rain, he tells us that Barlow ". . . had earlier achieved some fame as the inventor of repeating clocks and watches".

Then there was a Casanova — not the one we know about, but the one who founded a new school of writing which was *dominant* for 150 years. That in itself may seem uninteresting, but Casanova II changed entirely the style of legal documents, so that it was based on simplicity. (What I want to know is who changed it all back again?)

But some things don't change at all. In 1737 we could read an edict that ran: *Abstracts of Several Laws and Rules That are now in Force, relating to the Importation of Wines into and out of Great Britain*.

What astonished me most in my peeps into the past is the extraordinary number of ventures into the unknown. A German landed on Greenland in 1746 (and made fine engravings of birds of prey, whales, narwhals, as well as kayaks). From Hamburg to Iceland is not a great distance, nor, presumably, did Johann Anderson think it was when he landed. But what about those truly intrepid voyagers who went, in the 17th century, too, and what befell them?

What befell them was that they were captured and in time ransomed, but not before the sharp-eyed Emanual d'Aranda had made copious notes.

> • Of all 17th-century travellers, Aranda is without doubt the one who had with least sophistication depicted the misery of slavery in Algeria . . . one of the most interesting and dramatic voyages of the 17th century.

But the next figure to leave a presumably comfortable home (in Mannheim) must have had a special pull, and indeed he had. He was a Jesuit, and his call took him to California, of all places. He lived for 16 years in the Mission, and left only when the Jesuits were driven out. Our bookman says: "Like most of the German Jesuits he found conditions in the Missions insufferable, and his book amply expresses this disenchantment." I am beginning to think that our splendid Mr Rodgers is a cynic.

But he *must* be cynical about the next item, because it is almost certainly a fake. That is, the travels that are recounted are probably fraudulent, but as a story — and a story in 1670 — they can certainly delight in the Münchhausen-like boasting, and the boasting is certainly powerful:

> *The Late Travels of S. Giacomo Baratti An Italian Gentleman, Into the remote Countries of The Abassins, or Ethiopia Interior . . . An exact account of the Laws, Governments, Religion . . . With many Observations which some may improve to the advantage and increase of Trade with them . . . Together with a Confirmation of this Relation drawn from the Writings of Damianus de Goes, and Jo. Scaliger, who agree with the Author in many particulars.*

But there can be no mistake with the next story. First, it emphasises the extraordinary wanderlust that has over the centuries dragged so many men from their beds, to seek — to seek what? Not necessarily gold, and in the case of Captain Philip Beaver, certainly not. His title-page reads like this:

> *African Memoranda: relative to an attempt to establish a British Settlement on the Island of Buluma, on the Western Coast of Africa, in the year 1792, with a brief notice of the Neighbouring Tribes, Soil, Productions, and some observations on the Facility of Colonizing that part of Africa, with a view to Cultivation; and the Introduction of Letters and Religion to its Inhabitants: but more particularly as the means of gradually abolishing African Slavery.*

In 1792? Yes indeed, if you have a captain like Beaver. For he said that the slave trade could be curtailed, if not ended, by the growing of sugar cane. To prove it, he bought the island from its king — King Niobana of Ghinala — and got started. (Our intrepid explorer paid for the island with a variety of goods, including an 18-gallon cask of brandy, five handkerchiefs and six hats.)

Nor did the voyagers stop there. William Bruton sailed to Bengal (or Beng alia as it was then called) in 1638, and the first thing he did was to describe the indigenes and their customs, "Also their detestable Religion, mad and foppish rites and Ceremonies, and wicked Sacrifices and impious Customes used in those parts". He too bartered successfully, this time for trading concessions, for which he paid "Twenty pounds of Cloves, Twenty pounds of Mace, Twenty pounds of Nutmegs, two bolts of Damaske, one faire Looking-Glasse, one Fouling-piece, with two Locks, and one double Pistoll". (Ah, but that "faire Looking-Glasse"!)

I was on the verge of asking "But where were the pirates that these intrepid voyagers had to deal with?" when I turned the page and remembered that in those days the line between pirates and voyagers — and there were some famous names on the list — was very thin. What about this?

> *Bucaniers of America: Or, a true Account of the Most Assaults committed of late years upon the Coast of The West Indies, by the Bucaniers of Jamaica and Tortuga . . . both English and French*

And all of a sudden there comes a new Dictionary — but not a dictionary such as the OED. This one goes like this:

> *A New Dictionary of the Terms Ancient and Modern of the Canting Crew, in its several Tribes, of Gypsies, Beggars, Thieves, Cheats, Useful for all sorts of People (especially Foreigners to secure their Money and preserve their Lives), besides very Diverting and Entertaining being wholly New.*

But I think we should finish as we started — that is to say, among the curiosities of the world, and particularly Mr Rodgers's generous supply of those curiosities, with this:

> *The Book of Feet. A History of Boots and Shoes, also Hints to Last Makers and Remedies for Corns.*

Yours for £180.

Three ages of marriage

Paul Barker on the dire effects of divorce on children

Abigail's party is over. Alison Steadman and Mike Leigh have decided to split up. "We have two wonderful sons we care for, we care for each other and we do intend to work together," she told the press on the Imperial War Museum set of her forthcoming BBC TV series about the Second World War. You might have thought that such a statement would end, appropriately, with the words ". . . and we intend to soldier on with our marriage". But no.

To many people Alison Steadman, from her roles in her husband's films, epitomises the slightly dotty but devoted wife and mother, who smiles and carries on, even if (as in *Life is Sweet*) she finds that her husband only wants to run a part-time hamburger stall, and that, of her two daughters, one is interested only in being a female plumber and the other in making love while smeared all over with chocolate. Now she joins the divorce squadron, along with the Duke and Duchess of York, Will and Julia Carling, and all the other recent high-profile refugees from love and marriage.

There were mixed motives behind Tory MPs' rebellion against the Lord Chancellor's Family Law Bill this week. (A free vote was a heaven-sent chance to put a warning whoopee-cushion under the Prime Minister.) But a genuine anxiety about what is happening to the family was one of them. The anxieties are well-founded. Britain is the divorce capital of Western Europe.

The Government regularly chirrups that we have become the EU's enterprise centre, its Singapore or Taiwan. We have also become its Reno. Young children are increasingly caught up in the marital bust-ups. In 1993, according to *Social Trends*, 55,000 children under the age of five saw, heard and — most important — felt their parents' divorce. The figures are up by a quarter in ten years. Couples jack their marriages in ever earlier, children or no children.

Yet all the evidence shows that children would prefer their parents to stay together, even if they are throwing the kitchenware at each other, or going away overnight for mysterious business meetings. The Joseph Rowntree Research Foundation in York has published a series of studies which all show that family disruption is bad for children. They are "more likely to suffer health, educational and social problems", to quote from one of these. Admittedly, marital conflict is not good for children either. But marriage break-up is worse. The children describe themselves afterwards as "often unhappy" or "miserable". They find it hard to make friends. They imagine there is something wrong with them.

We seem to have become so passionate about divorce that the opposing evidence is often ignored. It is especially ignored by those who, in a twisted version of feminism, still maintain that lone parenthood is fine and dandy for the children, perhaps even superior to two parents.

On Monday, the Rowntree Foundation published its latest study. It kept track of a thousand young people. One of the main findings was that boys and girls who are still living with both "biological parents" at the age of 15 are the least likely to start using drugs or to become unemployed. The girls are also least likely to become teenage mothers.

The *Daily Mail* put these findings on page one, with the headline "Confirmed — Divorce Damages Children". *The Guardian* tucked them away on page seven, under the headline "'Standard' Family No Key to Success". I have to report that the *Mail* was more accurate than *The Guardian*. Don't look now, your preconceptions are showing.

Of course, the way we live, and especially the way women live, has shifted enormously. But this does not mean that child-rearing has to suffer. Dr Catherine Hakim, of the London School of Economics, has enraged some of her fellow sociologists by pointing this out in a taboo-breaking new book, *Key Issues in Women's Work* (Athlone, £35/14.95). As she says, *all* of the net increase in employment in Britain in the past half-century has come from female part-time work. (By contrast, in the 1980s alone, two million full-time male jobs were lost.) But this still leaves women with a wide choice about how to arrange their, and their children's, lives.

Historically, we have gone through two phases of marriage. It is time to start on a third. For centuries marriage was, at bottom, an economic arrangement, organised largely for the benefit of the man. Would this woman (depending on your social level) wield a swift sickle, keep a close eye on the till or breed the necessary male heir for the estates? In the 20th century this model was overtaken in Western societies by the ideal of emotional partnership. The new holy trinity were Sigmund Freud, Alfred Kinsey and Simone de Beauvoir. Many parents began to feel that their own demands, their own gratifications, were as important as the children's. And as many a divorce case shows, some of them began to behave like infants themselves.

But it becomes more and more obvious that what matters most in a marriage is what it does for the next generation. To borrow from the sociobiologists, the essential third phase is to see marriage as a nest. Nothing matters as much as the children.

The author is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.

Red routed

NEW LABOUR has finally got rid of Edward "Red Ted" Knight, the former leader of Lambeth council who put the loony into Labour's loony Left. He has been ousted from the town hall where he once ruled the roost.

Until last week, he was still managing the Lambeth Social Club, a meeting place for trade unions and council staff in the town hall basement. But ten years after he was barred from office for refusing to set a rate in protest at cuts, the council's new Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition last week took the club to court and evicted it from the building.

"We had a review of the use of buildings and the club refused to pay any rent," explained the council, "so we went to court." One new Labour councillor added: "It's about cleansing the stables. We are clearing out the old hard Left."

The club's most hallowed corner was the "Red Room", decorated with a piece of the Red Flag that once flew from the town hall roof. "If they think I'm a political threat after ten years, they must be in trouble," says Ted. "I cannot think they would close down a whole social club of 1,700 members just to have a go at me."

● *An edict has been issued by disciplinarians at Christ Church, Oxford, the college which has produced more Prime Ministers than any other. Owing to "unusual levels" of drunkenness, junior members have been asked to restrict themselves to just two glasses of wine at supper. Senior members' drinking is unaffected.*

Tentative steps

TO THE Middle Eastern mixing pot of Israelis, Syrians and Katyusha missiles add another fiery ingredient: Miss Lorne Williamson, director of the M&G Trenowath Marquee Company of Cambridge. For years, Miss Williamson's firm has hired out a tent to the Israeli Embassy in London for its Independence Day. This year, however, she was so disgusted by Israel's bombing of Lebanon that she decided it was time to pull out the tent pegs.

"The images of the bombing of the United Nations compound and the displacement of so many Lebanese civilians cannot be ignored," thunders Miss Williamson in her letter to the Israeli Ambassador, Moshe Raviv. "I return deposit cheque," reads a snotty PS. The Embassy was left with just two working days to find marquee II. Peace or no peace, it seems unlikely Miss Williamson's services will be called upon next year.

Unaided

THE HOUSE of Lords has been hit by political correctness. A busty baroness recently put in a request to the Serjeant at Arms for a safety-pin to attach her House of Lords pass. The angle of her ample embonpoint made for difficulties with the usual chain-round-the-neck method.

To her astonishment, the request met with a frosty response.

THE TIMES DIARY

The relevant memo from the Serjeant at Arms's office to Black Rod, General Sir Edward Jones, has fallen into my hands: "You may like to mention to the Peeress that under Health and Safety at Work Regulations, pins, needles etc. are no longer being issued to places of work because of the risk of transferring the Aids virus." The pins were grudgingly supplied, however, and the baroness proudly sports her pass as never before.

Final score

THE TENSION mounts as we wait to see if Geoff Hurst will be reunited with the football with which he scored a hat-trick in the 1966 World Cup final. But I have news of another football icon. A campaign has been launched to provide a fitting tribute to Pickles, the dog that found the World Cup itself after it was swiped in 1966.

The campaign has powerful backers, including Sepp Biatter, general secretary of Fifa, according to *Total Football* magazine, which wants a gold bust of the hound installed at Wembley. The Labour MP Tony Banks, who yesterday in the Commons demanded a debate on the lost football, is more ambitious. "We should rename the World Cup the Pickles World Cup — perhaps sponsored by Branston."

● *Richard Branson went roller-blading in Central Park this week before launching his Virgin store. It was a mistake — he lost control at speed and fell in a knotted heap after ploughing though some formal flowerbeds. "You've savaged the John Lennon Memorial Garden," cried dog-walkers as the bearded wonder struggled to his feet.*

Loose ends

Cindy: catty colleagues

FIRST the Princess of Wales is shown to have cellulite; now I have grave news of Cindy Crawford. One of the world's most beautiful women, she looked quite magnificent at a West End party on Wednesday, but she could do with some hair conditioner — she has quite a curtain of split-ends.

Purring with satisfaction at the discovery on Wednesday night, when Cindy turned out to launch a West End fashion boutique, her catwalk colleagues spread the news. The supermodel ignored the gossip and praised the Princess of Wales. "She hasn't got cellulite. It's a vicious rumour," she said. "In fact, she looks fantastic and I could take some advice from her."

P·H·S

هكذا من الاول

هكذا في الأصل

PUNCH AND JUDY

Blair landed a blow on divorce, but the attack was unjust

As John Major and Tony Blair squared up to each other across the dispatch box yesterday, their row must have sounded familiar to any couple at war. There was irrationality, acrimony and misrepresentation in equal measures: all the unhappy ingredients, in fact, of the typical domestic argument that afflicts couples in the run-up to a divorce.

The irony may have been lost on the politicians. But to the general public, this must seem a rum affair. Four Cabinet ministers vote against a government Bill introduced by one of their most senior colleagues. The Government is defeated on one crucial amendment (though it wins the other). The Bill's second reading is secured only with opposition support: 165 Tories backed the rebel amendment. Does not this show, as the Leader of the Opposition claimed yesterday, that the Government is "in an advanced state of decay" and does it not show "the humiliating state to which [Mr Major's] authority has been reduced"?

Up to a point, Mr Blair. Ever since this Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech last autumn, the Prime Minister has made it clear that it would be subject to a free vote. Divorce is not a party political issue; it is a matter for personal conscience. Everybody has always known that the main hurdle for the legislation lay on the Tory side and that opposition support would be critical to its passage. The mistake that ministers made in the heated atmosphere of politics this week the was not to prepare better for Wednesday night's result.

Although the scale of the rebellion was larger than expected, the result could have been worse for Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Had the Tory rebels managed to reintroduce the notion of fault into divorce, the whole principle of the Bill would have been undermined. Instead they merely extended from one year to 18 months the time necessary for a divorce to be won in cases where there are children under 16 or when one spouse applies for an extension. This is a sensible measure, giving notice to couples with children that divorce for them is a more serious matter. It does not in any way conflict with the central reform.

What the vote has done, though, is to expose the extent of the manoeuvring for position that is going on inside the Tory party. Can the rebellions of Stephen Dorrell and William Hague, both possible leadership contenders, have had anything to do with their wish to reassure the Right that they are "sound" on social issues? If John Major's position had been stronger, it has to be wondered whether the support for the amendments would have been quite so large.

Nonetheless, Mr Blair's treatment of the result yesterday was shamelessly misleading. He knows perfectly well that conscience votes — whether on a government or a Private Member's Bill — are matters for individual judgment. He did not make political capital out of differing Conservative votes on the proper age for homosexual consent or the time at which a foetus could be aborted.

If Mr Blair proves himself as unprincipled when it comes to the Bill's third reading, he will deserve to be criticised again. Labour has served notice that its support cannot be taken for granted; and it may well try to find an excuse to defeat the Government in the summer. Given that virtually every Labour MP supports the principles of this Bill, a decent defence of such action would be tough. If Labour MPs really care about the family and about their constituents, they must not let the prospect of a cheap political victory obscure the long-term importance of sorting out Britain's messy divorce procedures.

A CROWDED ROAD

Many obstacles stand in the way of the Transport Green Paper

The Department of Transport has been this Government's Cinderella ministry. It has been the departure lounge for declining statesmen or waiting room for young men in a hurry. Consistency has been a casualty. Imaginative solutions from past ministers have withered for want of Treasury support and political daring. Sir George Young's Transport Green Paper, published yesterday, is an attempt to give coherence to future policy by balancing environmental and economic interests. It is certainly comprehensive but far stronger on diagnosis than prescription. Progress still depends on expending capital — financial and political — to get Britain moving.

The Green Paper was the brainchild of Sir George's predecessor, Brian Mawhinney. Facing another bleak public expenditure round where his department's road-building programme was to be further squeezed, Dr Mawhinney made a virtue out of a necessity. The car, once a potent symbol of Eighties economic liberation, was consigned to the sliproad of history. Dr Mawhinney presented the deceleration of road-building as a response to public worries about congestion and pollution. He initiated a national debate on alternative solutions and encouraged interested parties to contribute. The Green Paper is the product, a suitably filleted digest not a manifesto.

The main thrust, albeit tentative, of the Green Paper, is towards improving public transport. Sir George is anxious to get freight off the roads and people out of cars. He hopes privatisation will see the railways revived and a campaign to boost the popularity of buses could change travelling habits. He is also keen to ensure that those goods which do travel by road are conveyed more efficiently; there has to be room for greater productivity in haulage when 25 per cent of lorries make their journeys unladen.

They are worthy objectives but his methods are not always equal to the task. The Green Paper recognises that transport choices, like most economic choices, are made more efficiently when customers bear the real cost of their behaviour. Yet the paper shies away from a comprehensive and coherent scheme of road-pricing. Sir George prefers to contemplate raising duties and embark on a series of "wide-ranging discussions" with industry to improve business efficiency. Tax and talking may help but a positive embrace of market solutions promises more in the long term.

The Green Paper has several unambiguously worthwhile recommendations. The introduction of a single number, with a human voice at the end of it, for national train inquiries is a small but solid blessing. Proposals to encourage cycling, the greenest and cheapest of all forms of transport, are wholly welcome. Most significantly of all, the proposal to reform the planning of trunk roads to ensure wider consultation and more detailed planning should ensure that those improvements which are required in the road network are less likely to be impeded.

The debate started by Dr Mawhinney may have, initially, been more a matter of political finesse than high principle. But it has helped clarify policy. Now comes the need for commitment in infrastructure investment and more boldness in free-market solutions for the environment.

TOUCH OF LEATHER

A Thirty Years War for football's Holy Grail

The ball with which England defeated West Germany in the World Cup final of 1966 has attained almost mystical significance in the minds of soccer folk. Its orange leather panels are being fought over today as though they were relics of saints. Three decades on, it is a symbol of English soccer's finest hour. Its return to this land might even be an omen of success in this summer's European championship. The fans want it back.

By English traditions the ball should never have left home at all. The icon should have gone to Geoff Hurst who scored a hat-trick in the 4-2 victory at Wembley. But as the final whistle was blown, the ball was snatched by a German, Helmut Haller, who cites an unlikely-sounding continental tradition that the last player to kick the ball gets to keep it. The defeated West German defied the referee's instruction to hand it back, and the souvenir of England's triumph disappeared.

What happened over the ensuing years is a mystery. Now there are as many as 30 footballs in Germany purporting to be the true relic. The most likely claim is that of Jürgen Haller, son of the player who ran away with the ball, who says he rediscovered the trophy in a cellar near Munich. He has now reportedly hired bodyguards and kicked the ball into the back of a safe deposit box. A rival ball has surfaced in Dusseldorf: there is talk of dozens more across Germany: a mysterious reappearance of the true ball in Leamington Spa is predicted.

Cheque books are out as tabloid newspapers, agents and football historians wrangle over who owns the battered leather talisman. The reluctance of the Germans to return this symbol of their defeat reflects the Thirty Years War that has been fought over the result of the game. The Germans have never fully accepted that they were beaten at Wembley in 1966 — claiming that Geoff Hurst's second goal did not cross the line. Over the years teams of scientists, geometricians and engineers have been employed to analyse film and computer simulations in attempts to discredit the goal: all to no avail. These scientific teams could well be employed over the next 30 years trying to establish the authenticity of assorted balls; dye and leather now face tests as stringent as those used on the Turin Shroud.

Blame is falling once more on the football authorities for ever having let the ball vanish. We recall that they did seem to have been somewhat careless in 1966. Only weeks before the World Cup competition began, the Jules Rimet Trophy for the winning team was stolen. It turned up a few days before the kick-off, discovered behind a bush by a dog called Pickles.

Unlike the trophy, the World Cup ball cannot be melted down and has no material value. But try telling that to those who are now trying to cash in on its history. It should surely be returned to the only man who has a real claim on it — Geoff Hurst. Why should the Germans still want to hang on to what is, after all, a permanent symbol of their defeat? They may have thought it was all over 30 years ago. But it will not be, until the true World Cup ball is safely back in England.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Challenging views on UK in Europe

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative), and others

Sir, Your description (leading article, April 25) of the Prime Minister's remarks on Europe to the Institute of Directors as a "precarious straddle between opposing positions" is ungenerous.

His speech (report, April 25) was a robust restatement of a set of views which are coherent and consistent. He affirmed our role in the European Union and his determination that it should be a union of nation states — an objective shared by other European leaders. As Chancellor Kohl regularly says, no one wants a centralised superstate. It does not and never will exist.

John Major yesterday threw down the gauntlet to those who believe we should leave the Union or that Britain's interests could be protected by some sort of trading relationship with the rest of Europe. He spelt out clearly the economic, political and strategic benefits of our membership, all of which would be put in jeopardy should we heed the demands of the Euro-sceptics.

At a time when the European debate has descended into unreality, often verging on hysteria, and he himself is under so much pressure, the Prime Minister has once again shown his good sense and steadfastness.

Sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
QUENTIN DAVIES,
TRISTAN GAREL-JONES,
JOHN HANNAM,
TIM RENTON
ANDREW ROWE,
House of Commons.
April 25.

From Mr Charles Wide, QC

Sir, With reference to the Prime Minister's speech to the Institute of Directors, contrary to his assurances when the Maastricht treaty was rammed through Parliament, it is obvious that things are not going our way in Europe. On the Continent there is an implacable determination to integrate further.

Does Mr Major believe that we should stay in the European Union at any cost to our independence? What should we do if a Europe of sovereign nation states is no longer on offer?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WIDE,
Church Cottage,
Main Street, Glapthorn,
Northamptonshire.
April 25.

From Mr Neil A. Spiers

Sir, Mrs Elisabeth Sandys (letter, April 23) seems a little misinformed about Sir James Goldsmith and his Referendum organisation.

If she wishes to support a political party whose aim is the "pursuit of restoring our traditional democratic and sovereign rights" as she indicates, then she should support the UK Independence Party and not Sir James Goldsmith who, whilst appealing to the anti-EU lobby with his party, is in favour of remaining in the European Union.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL A. SPIERS,
37 Twynham Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
April 25.

From Mr D. J. Tapper

Sir, The real attraction offered by the Referendum Party of Sir James Goldsmith is that it provides a democratic option that did not previously exist in British politics.

I do not profess to understand the minutiae of the Treaty of Rome or of Maastricht but I do know that I dislike the way in which what was the EEC is developing and the loss of sovereignty that is appearing on the horizon.

Prior to Sir James's intervention I considered myself to be disfranchised. Thanks to the Referendum Party I can now express my fears through the ballot box. If this concerns any of the major parties then I am delighted.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. TAPPER,
5 Hillbury Gardens,
Warlingham, Surrey.
April 25.

From Mr P. V. Radford

Sir, Is it not time that we looked at some of the advantages of our membership of the EU?

Can anyone seriously suggest that the export of British beef would not have been banned or that the measures we are being forced to implement would have been any easier to negotiate if we had been outside the EU?

And perhaps one of the more vociferous Euro-sceptics might like to explain who would be sharing the cost with us.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK RADFORD,
Langford Hall,
Newark, Nottinghamshire.
April 25.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Blake case impact on official secrecy

From Mr Hugh Mooney

Sir, Three cheers (once again) for Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, in throwing out the Government's transparent attempt to increase official secrecy by the back door in its vengeful action to confiscate the profits of the traitor George Blake's autobiography, *No Other Choice* (report, April 20; Law Report, April 23).

As gatekeeper of government secrets the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, claimed that Blake owed a lifelong duty to keep his mouth shut about his work in British intelligence. That was going too far, said Sir Richard, knowing that the duty did not apply only to traitors like Blake but to thousands of loyal citizens, including Cabinet ministers, generals and ambassadors, who might be induced not to write their memoirs.

British political experience is impoverished by this doctrine of official secrecy, which prevents many public servants from giving their first-hand accounts of their experiences. We are left to read the much weeded files 30 years on, if we are lucky.

One consequence is that the rare whistleblowers, the media conspiracy correspondents and their anonymous sources, are often the first and only source of information on the secret world. Because it is a secret world, the authorities can neither confirm nor deny their stories. Secrecy about the truth actually helps perpetuate myths about intelligence and government. One example is the so-called plot by MI5 to overthrow Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson in 1974.

It is, however, naive to expect any great change in the culture. As a former member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Information Research Department I was recently sent a copy of the official early history of this secret department, but it signalled no move towards more openness.

I was reminded that I was still bound by the declaration on the Official Secrets Act made when I had joined the department. When I protested that the section had been repealed it was acknowledged that I was not bound by it. When I asked for guidance on my obligations under the revised Official Secrets Acts I was advised to consult a solicitor.

What government departments want is a legal right to take action against anyone who publishes anything containing official information without prior authority.

Serving and retired public servants have been told for years that they have a legal duty to present a manuscript for clearance before offering it to a publisher. Sir Richard has ruled that there is no legal basis for these gagging demands unless the public servant has previously made a binding agreement to keep his mouth shut.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MOONEY
(Member, FCO, Information
Research Department, 1969-77),
1 Anchor Cottage,
Prickwillow Road,
Isleham, Cambridgeshire.
April 23.

From Professor Emeritus
Charles Chadwick

Sir, If, as your report of April 19 states, "under the law no criminal is allowed to profit from his crime while serving his sentence", that point seems to have been ignored, or interpreted in a very narrow sense.

Blake, having escaped after six years in prison, may not be actually *serving* his sentence, but the serving of that sentence has yet to be completed. If the Scott decision stands, does it not mean that any escaped prisoner can profit from his crime for as long as he can avoid recapture?

The solution would seem to be to ensure that "no criminal is allowed to profit from his crime until he has served his sentence". Whether he should be allowed to do so even then is another matter.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CHADWICK,
The Beeches, William Street,
Torphins, Aberdeenshire.
April 23.

Showbiz bias in Bafta awards?

From Sir David Nicholas
and Mr David Plowright

Sir, ITV's showing of last Sunday's awards ceremony by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (report, April 22) dishonoured a large section of British programme-making. The growing dominance of the showbiz side of Bafta resulted in 11 awards covering news, current affairs, the arts and sport being omitted from the programme seen by millions of viewers.

The one journalistic programme award shown in the broadcast was for *Panorama*'s interview with the Princess of Wales and that was contrived by re-designating *Panorama* as a "talk show".

Among the winners excluded from the broadcast were ITN's Channel Four News coverage of war crimes in Yugoslavia (best news); BBC coverage of VE-Day celebrations (best live programme); BBC2's *Death of Yugoslavia* (best factual series). The best single drama (BBC's *Persuasion*), all children's and arts programmes were also excluded.

An outstanding success in British film-making, recognised internationally with a string of Oscars, is our film animation. Bafta has shunted off the animators to a separate evening, out of sight of the cameras.

A whole raft of British programming, appreciated by millions, is thus being sidelined by showbiz values. A little extra time on the programme, some disciplining of endless, inane kissogram thank-yous and deft editing of inflated compilations could have found room for due recognition of home-bred programme excellence.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NICHOLAS
(Chairman,
ITN, 1989-91),
DAVID PLOWRIGHT
(Chairman,
Granada Television, 1987-92),
Lodge Stables,
Kidbrooke Park Road,
Blackheath, SE3.
April 23.

Tailoring education to needs of ever-changing society

From Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, Sir Claus Moser's speech to the Royal Society of Arts, as reported by you (April 18) under the headline "Standards in schools 'are still slipping' ", is immensely depressing, not so much because of its long-standing truths as to the statistical trends but far more because it characterises the inability, or reluctance, of our educational and political leaders to face more fundamental questions about compulsory state education.

In the last three decades of the 1800s the authors of the first few Education Acts reacted very simply and briefly to what were generally perceived to be the needs of the society of the day: namely, a grasp of the three Rs and knowledge of morality and religion. A hundred years later society is immeasurably more complex and is changing at bewildering speed, so even those original most basic of aims are open to manifold interpretations.

The facts now are that no one can foretell the specific skills which will be needed by the general populace in 10 of 20 years' time, and that morality has succumbed to subjectivism. The word "standards" therefore is no longer applicable to a system of so-called education which, by a large proportion of those of school age, is regarded as irrelevant to their adult life.

Let us therefore channel the enormous amount of time and energy which is nowadays being spent on irrelevant minutiae, based on 19th-century notions, into more fundamental appraisals of what the children of the 1990s need for the 2020s.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe, Winchester, Hampshire.
April 18.

From Mrs Katie Ivens

Sir, Sir Claus Moser is right: education standards *are* slipping. The slip has become a vertiginous slide as the products of the Plowden primary system — in which whole-class teaching and proven methods of teaching the three Rs were abandoned in favour of "mixed methods" — pass through a still largely monolithic, egalitarian, comprehensive system pervaded by the dogma of "mixed ability".

But Sir Claus is also wrong. While expressing dismay that in relation to giving emphasis to "the abler children and the slightly more privileged ... the bottom half is even worse off", he alleges that structural reforms of secondary education are merely a political diversion.

Structural reform is an educational necessity: both top and bottom halves of the ability and "privilege" range will continue to under-achieve until diverse schools addressing pupils' diverse needs replace the failed comprehensive system.

Things will go on getting worse before they get better until the Government's reforms — effective teaching of the basics in primary schools and choice and diversity in secondary schools — are delivered. The Secretary of State should cease placating teacher unions and local education authorities (the vested interests), back her standards-bearing Chief Inspector Chris Woodhead, and get a move on.

Yours truly,
KATIE IVENS (Vice-Chairman,
Campaign for Real Education),
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10.
April 18.

Youth and the Church

From the Reverend Alan Cooke

Sir, A teacher who talks in tendentious terms of "churchianity" and "priestcraft" as contrasted with "the real world" (Mr John Pearman's letter, April 17) may not be the best person to help his students learn more about the work and function of a priest.

However, there will remain in most communities hard-working priests and ministers who would be perfectly willing to respond to any teacher's invitation and speak to students about their vocation and about why it is both necessary and fulfilling.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COOKE,
The Vicarage,
Milne Street,
Chadderton, Oldham,
Greater Manchester.
April 22.

Never too late

From Mr T. J. Bellers

Sir, Mr John Orton's letter (April 17) about Voluntary Service Overseas having a 70-year upper age limit prompts me to say that British Executive Service Overseas, which currently sends out 700 senior volunteers overseas on aid assignments every year, has *no* upper age limit. Indeed, last year several 80-year-olds and even more hale and hearty people over 70 performed very worthwhile and professional short assistance assignments.

The bad news is that we don't pay anything and we send people to even more far-flung and underdeveloped countries!

Yours,
T. J. BELLERS, Director,
British Executive Service Overseas,
164 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.
April 19.

Rock's reply on drugs

From the Chief Minister of Gibraltar

Sir, In his letter of April 19 the Spanish Ambassador in London alleges incorrectly that there is persistent drug trafficking from Gibraltar, with little or no action on the part of the Gibraltar authorities. He also wrongly implies that the new licensing procedures introduced in Gibraltar last July were confined to speedboats.

The measures introduced last July prohibited the importation of the particular type of vessel allegedly involved in drug trafficking between Morocco and Spain. Of the sixty or so such vessels then berthed in Gibraltar, about half were found to be here illegally and to be mainly owned and operated by Spaniards and UK citizens living on the Costa del Sol.

Some of these vessels left Gibraltar for good, others were confiscated by the authorities, and measures were taken to curtail the movements of the twelve or so which remain. Many more are based in Spanish ports, where they appear to be subject to no form of control or limitation.

Gibraltar is committed to the fight against drugs. Our anti-drugs laws are much stronger than Spain's. It is illegal in Gibraltar to use cannabis and unlike Spain, Gibraltar has implemented all EU and UN requirements in the fight against drugs and money laundering. What little connection attaches to Gibraltar in the drug trade between Spain and Morocco will be eliminated.

If the Spanish authorities were to introduce the kind of legislation and controls which we have in Gibraltar, the movement of vessels engaged in cannabis-smuggling between Spain and Morocco would drop significantly, and fewer drugs would enter Gibraltar by land from Spain.

Yours faithfully,
J. BOSSANO,
Chief Minister,
6 Convent Place, Gibraltar.
April 19.

Milk and breast cancer

From Professor Jane A. Plant

Sir, According to Dr Helen Wiseman, of King's College London, consumption of soya protein in oriental cooking may account for the low rates of breast, colon and prostate cancer in countries such as Japan and China (report, April 17). I should like to suggest that the low consumption of dairy produce in these countries is also a factor.

Recent studies have implicated milk in the promotion of breast cancer. I myself have suffered from breast cancer, which recurred five times over a six-year period. I have always eaten and continue to eat considerable quantities of soya products.

The last time the cancer recurred, about three years ago, I and colleagues who have worked in China and similar countries concluded that low consumption of dairy produce was one of the key differences between Western and oriental diets. I gave up all dairy produce and my secondary tumours disappeared and I have had no subsequent illness.

Yours faithfully,
JANE PLANT,
12 Debdale Lane,
Keyworth, Nottingham.
April 18.

After Levin's blood

From Mr Tim Towle

Sir, Anjana Ahuja reports (Body and Mind, April 23) that researchers are finding that those who construct long and complex sentences may be less likely to contract Alzheimer's disease.

Bernard Levin has a public responsibility to send them a blood sample forthwith.

Yours etc,
TIM TOWLE,
Beehive Cottage,
2a Frensham Road,
Farnham, Surrey.
April 23.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 25: The Queen this morning visited Maidenhead Magistrates' Court and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wroughton), the Chairman of the Bench (Mrs Janet Anstis) and the Chairman of the Magistrates' Association (Mrs Rosemary Thomson).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon gave a Luncheon at Frogmore House, Windsor Home Park.

By Command of The Queen, the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Departure of The President of Mongolia and Mrs Tsezelmaa and bade His Excellency and Mrs Tsezelmaa farewell on behalf of The Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 25: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg, and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the donation to the Museum of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives.

His Royal Highness subsequently met staff and patients of the Palliative Care Unit of St Boniface General Hospital and toured the Forks Covered Market.

The Prince of Wales later visited The Children of the Earth High School, the first Aboriginal High School in Manitoba.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles (Little Black Devils), this afternoon visited the Regiment's Drill Hall at Minto Armouries and met members of the Regiment and their families, and watched a number of working demonstrations.

The Prince of Wales this evening arrived in Toronto and was received by the Honourable Henry Jackman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

His Royal Highness later attended a Dinner given by the Honourable Henry Jackman at Queen's Park.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 25: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited the offices and showrooms and attended the Board of Management Meeting at 5 Portland Place, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Vice Presidents' Meeting and Dinner at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Guide Association, held a Reception at Kensington Palace this afternoon following the presentation of Brooches to those who have become Queen's Guides.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 25: The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Cambridgeshire and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

Her Royal Highness visited Eastholm School, Reeves Way, Peterborough and subsequently visited the International Children's Trust, 50 Willesden Avenue, Peterborough.

Afterwards The Duchess of Gloucester opened new buildings at the Caverstede Nursery School, Caverstede Road, Paston, Peterborough and later opened the Iceni Unit at County Hospital, Doddington.

The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, the British Museum, this evening opened the exhibition 'Stairways to the Sky: Rice and Life in the Philippines' at the Museum of Mankind, 6 Burlington Gardens, London W1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 25: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the final concert of the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition, the Barbican Arts and Conference Centre, Silk Street, London EC2.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the John Morgan Sports Complex, St Edward's College, Sandfield Park, Liverpool and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon opened the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and Education Centre, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Eaton Road, Liverpool; and later visited Scientific Hospital Supplies International Limited, Wavertree Boulevard, Wavertree Technology Park, Liverpool, Merseyside.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a dinner with the Military Knights of Windsor at Windsor Castle at 8.10.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison and YOI, Styal, at 9.30; as Patron of the Quarry Bank Mill Trust, will visit Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Wilmslow, at 11.20; as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, will visit a new charity shop at 20 Market Street, Marple, at 12.15; as Patron of SENSE — The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will visit a unit for deafblind pupils at Royal Schools for the Deaf Manchester, Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Greater Manchester, at 1.00; and, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Angelica International, Ashton Road, Golborne, Warrington, at 2.50

The Duke of Gloucester, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Logistic Corps, will present medals to 27 Transport Regiment Royal Logistic Corps at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, at 10.00

Memorial service

Wing Commander Roderick Learoyd, VC

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Wing Commander Roderick Alastair Brook Learoyd, VC, was held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev Peter Bishop officiated. Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael Beetham, President, Bomber Command Association, read the lesson and Flight Lieutenant S.C. Stocker, HQ No 1 Group, read *High Flight* by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee. Mr Raymond Baxter gave an address.

Wing Commander Learoyd's medals were carried in procession from the West Door to the Altar by Squadron Leader Harry Bird, of 49 Squadron Association, escorted by Mr John Russell, of the Bomber Command Association, and Mr Edgar Spridgeon of the Aircrew Association. The Bomber Command Standard was carried by Mr Ron Pearson.

The Chief of the Defence Staff was represented by Air Vice-Marshal P.J. Harding and the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff by Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin (Controller, Aircraft). The Chief of the Air Staff and Lady Graydon attended.

Among others present were:

Mr and Mrs Barry Learoyd (brother and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs Terence Spencer (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs Mona Browning, Mr and Mrs Simon Learoyd, Mr Edward Learoyd, Mr and Mrs David Anderson, Mrs Rainer Priest, Miss Cara Spencer, Mrs Mary Jones.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, Air Marshal Sir Timothy and Lady Garden, Air Marshal G A Robertson (representing Air Officer Commanding in Chief, HQ Strike Command), Air Vice-Marshal M D Smart (representing the Air Member for Personnel), Air Commodore M K Widdowson (representing Air Officer Commanding 11-18 Group), Air Commodore P Liddell (representing the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, HQ Logistics Command).

Captain R W Annand, VC, and Mrs Annand, Flight-Lieutenant J A Cruickshank, VC, Mr J P Kenneally, VC, and Mrs Kenneally, Mr G Riley, GC, and Mrs Riley, Mr C Wilcox, GC, and Mrs Wilcox, Lieutenant-Colonel E C T Wilson, VC, and Mrs Wilson, Mr C Walker, GC, and Mrs Walker, Mrs L H Harrison, Mrs P J Harding, Mrs John Russell, Mrs Harry Bird, Mr Richard Bird, Mr Philip Bird, Mr Stanley Harding, Mr L Gibson, Mr Derek Hunt, Mr Peter Holmes, Mr and Mrs Eric Thompson, Air Commodore and Mrs D J Loveridge, Mrs Julia Pickles, Mr R Macmillan, Mr Richard Wilkinson, Squadron-Leader Maurice Smith.

The Chairman, Secretary and other members of the VC and GC Association, the Secretary of the 49 Squadron Association, representatives of Bomber Command Squadron 550 and 100, the Bomber Command Association, the Aircrew Association, Boon, the South Eastern TAVRA, the RAF Benevolent Fund, the 35 Squadron Pathfinders Association, the RAF Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, the Aston Martin Owners Club, the Governors of Wellington College and the Old Wellingtonian Society) and the Commonwealth Federation.

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Final flourish at Valley Gardens

By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent

THE premier award for the best exhibit at the 69th Harrogate Spring Flower Show, which opened yesterday, is for the first time being shared by two exhibitors, one showing good garden plants, the other alpines.

"This show is a celebration of 50 years in the Valley Gardens," said Alan Ravenscroft, show director for the North of England Horticultural Society, the organisers. "The show has outgrown the site and as this is the last in the Gardens it is a sad occasion, but we are looking forward to a more spacious venue at the Great Yorkshire Showground."

The exhibitors have had to cope with a cold late spring and poor light, yet have managed to produce many out-of-season blooms with skilful use of artificial heating and lighting.

Sylvia and Norman Brackley, of Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, have staged sweet pea blooms grown from seed sown last September.

The Valley Clematis Nursery of Hainton, Lincolnshire, is showing clematis hybrids that normally flower in early summer, including one of their own raising, red purple "Hainton Ruby".

More seasonal are the many displays of alpine plants. Potterton and Martin, of Nettleton, Lincolnshire, with Peter Orme Landscapes of Harrogate, whose exhibit is one of the joint winners of the premier award, have staged a collection of home made troughs planted with alpines and dwarf bulbs, many of them unusual including bright pink *Primula allionii* "Bill Martin" raised on the nursery.

Two exhibitors are showing pleiones, dwarf alpine orchids usually grown in an unheated greenhouse. Garden Creation, of Doncaster, is showing one of its own hybrids, *pleione* Surtsey "Stephanie Rose" whose pink flowers have a cream lip. Springwood Pleiones, of Leeds, has included one of the popular yellow hybrids, Shantung "Ducat".

Waithman Nurseries (Reginal Kaye), of Silverdale, Lancashire, has staged a charming woodland display of fresh green ferns, hellebores, celandines and wood anemones.

"A cool oasis of good garden plants" is how Jane and Leslie Oland, of Oland Plants, Risplith, North Yorkshire, the other joint winner of the premier award, describes its massive display of hardy and tender plants. There are numerous plants with bold foliage, from the giant rhubarb-like gunnera to astelia with silver sword-shaped leaves.

Another exhibit that relies more on shape than colour is the formal garden by The Great Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire Group. It includes an 18th-century knot garden with beds of black violets, topiary and a Victorian broken border, divided by buttresses of yew and containing cordylines and pansies.

The group has created a colourful woodland garden designed by Jo Makin, of Parcevall Hall Gardens, with rhododendrons and azaleas forced into flower in heat specially for the show.

Other highlights are the Alpine Garden Society's North of England Show, a daffodil show and a flower arrangement marquee.

The shows open from 9.30am to 6pm daily, closing on Sunday at 4.30pm

Luncheon

HM Government

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, was th host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Kingsley Wickremaratne, Minister of Internal and External Trade, Commerce and Food for Sri Lanka.

Service dinner

Royal Navy Club, 1765-85

Vice-Admiral Sir David Dobson, President of the Royal Navy Club, 1765-85, presided at a dinner held last night in the Wardroom of *HMS Dryad*.

Dinners

Scriveners' Company

Lord Kingsdown, KG, and Mr Alderman Roger Cork, Senior Alderman below the Chair, were the principal guests at a livery dinner of the Scriveners' Company held last night at Fishmongers' Hall. Mr H.J.W. Harman, Master, presided.

Glaziers' Company

Mr P.G. Lowe, Master of the Glaziers' Company, presided at a court dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall. Mr Simon Hughes, MP, and the Masters of the Bakers' and Carpenters' Company and the Master of the Society of Apothecaries' of London, were among the guests.

St Mark's Hospital

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave an address at a service of thanksgiving held yesterday, "St Mark's Day", in the Himsworth Hall, Northwick Park and St Mark's Hospitals to mark the move of St Mark's Hospital for Intestinal and Colorectal Disorders from City Road, Islington, to Northwick Park.

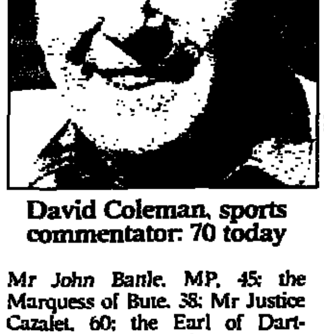
The Rev Tony Andrews, Chaplain, officiated, assisted by the Rev Peter Hemingway, Vicar of St Alban, North Harrow, the Rev Peter Laister, former Chaplain, the Rev Philip Cross, Roman Catholic Chaplain, and the Rev Christine Cornell, Free Church Chaplain.

Mrs Helen Fletcher-Rogers, Vice-Chairman of Northwick Park & St Mark's NHS Trust, and the Bishop of Willesden read the lessons. The Rev Eric Holdstock, the Rev George Haines, the Ven Peter Broadbent and the Right Rev Donald Arden were robed.

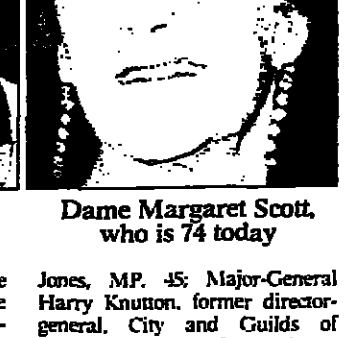
Music was provided by the Choir of the Parish of St Alban, North Harrow, directed by Mr John Barnard. Among others present were:

The Mayor of Brent, the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrow, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP, Mr Michael Cole, Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Mrs Beatrice Sizmur O'Mahoney (widow of the great-grandson of Frederick Salmon, the founder of St Mark's Hospital in 1835), Mrs Eileen Carey (a former nurse) and many other past and present members of the staff of St Mark's and Northwick Park Hospitals.

Birthdays today



David Coleman, sports commentator: 70 today



Dame Margaret Scott, who is 74 today

Mr John Battle, MP, 45; the Marquess of Bute, 38; Mr Justice Cazalet, 60; the Earl of Dartmouth, 72; Sir Gordon Downey, former Comptroller and Auditor General, 68; Mr J.C.B. Gosling, Principal, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 66; Professor Margaret Gowing, scientific historian, 76; Mr Stuart Higgins, Editor, *The Sun*, 40; Professor Sir James Holt, former Master, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 74; Mr M.L.R. Isaac, former Headmaster, Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, 68; Mr Justice Jacob, 55; Mr William Tudor John, senior partner, Allen and Overy, 52; Dr Lynne Jones, MP, 45; Major-General Harry Knutton, former director-general, City and Guilds of London Institute, 75; Dr Dame Anne McLaren, zoologist, 69; Professor Wilfrid Mellers, composer, 82; Sir Oliver Millar, Surveyor Emeritus of the Queen's Pictures, 73; Professor J.E. Morpurgo, professor of American literature, 78; Professor Philip Poole-Wilson, cardiologist, 53; Mr Peter Schaufuss, ballet dancer and choreographer, 47; Dr Ian Twinn, MP, 46; Mr Derek Waring, actor, 63; Mr Morris West, novelist, 80; Mr Willie Wood, bowler, 58.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor 161-180 AD, Rome, 121; Leonardo da Vinci, painter, sculptor, architect and engineer, Vinci, 1452; Alfred Krupp, industrialist, Essen, 1812; Michel Fokine, ballet dancer and choreographer, St Petersburg, 1880; Rudolf Hess, Nazi war criminal, Alexandria, Egypt, 1894; John Grierson, documentary film producer, Perth, 1898.

DEATHS: Jeremy Collier, controversialist, London, 1726; Karsten Niebuhr, explorer, Meldorf, Holstein, 1815; Carl Bosch, chemist, Nobel laureate 1931, Heidelberg, 1940; Sidney James, actor, Sunderland, 1976; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, London, 1980; William (Count) Basie, jazz bandleader and pianist, Florida, 1984.

The Great Plague began in London, 1665.

John Wilkes Booth, actor, the assassin of President Lincoln (April 14), was shot dead by troops, 1865.

The Duke of York married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in Westminster Abbey, 1923.

Accident at Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl, 1986.

Memorial services

Mr John Nichols

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr R.A. Venne at a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Mr John Nichols, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, held yesterday at St John's Wood Church. The Rev John Slater officiated.

Mr A.W. Beeson, son-in-law, read the lesson. Mr Toby Walker, grandson, read from the Earl of Lytton's *Antony* and Mr John Turner read T.S. Eliot's *Macavity*. Judge Quentin Campbell gave an address. Among those present were:

Mrs Nichols (widow), Mrs Tony Beeson (daughter), Mr Benjamin Beeson and Miss Antonia Beeson (step-grandchildren) and other members of the family.

Mr Bruce Trent

A memorial service for Mr Bruce Trent, former President of the Green Room Club and Deputy Musical Rat of the Grand Order of Water Rats, was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Rev Michael Hurst-Bannister officiated. Mr Len Lowe and Mr Johnny Denis, President of the Green Room Club, gave addresses.

Reception

HM Government

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host yesterday at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in aid of the Council of Christians and Jews and the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts last night at a dinner held at City Hall for past Lord Mayors.

London Society of Chartered Accountants

Miss Evelyn Bowyer, FCA, Chairman of the London Society of Chartered Accountants, presided at the Founding Societies Centenary Award Presentation Dinner held on Wednesday, April 24, 1996, at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, London, when the 1996 Award was presented by the Right Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to Lord Wakeham. The toast to the Founding Societies was proposed by Mr Keith Woodley, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Among those present were:

The 1993 Laureate Sir Brian Jenkins and the Presidents of the other Founding Societies, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield.

Upholders' Company

The Upholders' Company held their annual installation dinner last night at Drapers' Hall. The Master, Mr Derek Stanley Austin, presided, assisted by the Senior Warden, Mr Peter Allocca, and the Junior Warden, Mr Roy Allan Wood.

Lecture

Nathan Lecture on the Environment

Professor Richard Macrory, of Imperial College, delivered the inaugural Nathan Lecture on the Environment last night at the Royal Society of Arts in honour of Lord Nathan. The hosts were Denton Hall's Environmental Law Team and Lord Flowers presided.

The Royal Society of British Sculptors

Mrs Philomena Davidson Davis, President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, stood down after six years in office yesterday at the Society's Annual General Meeting. The Society welcomes its new President Mr Maurice Blik.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.M. Ballheimer and Miss L.J. Mears

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mrs Ellen Ballheimer and the late Mr Hans R. Ballheimer, of London, and Lisa, daughter of Mr Michael Mears, of Broadstone, Dorset and the late Anne Hague.

Mr A.D. Brewis and Miss K.E. Allison

The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr Robert Brewis, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Mrs Linda Brewis, of Tadworth, Surrey, and Karen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Allison, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr M.J. Docherty and Miss F.M. McWilliams

The engagement is announced between Mark Docherty and Fiona McWilliams, of Little Venice, London.

Mr C.D. Flook and Miss K. Hirao

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs David Flook, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Kazuko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michiyasu Hirao, of Fujisawa, Japan.

Mr N.D.K. Glazebrook and Miss R.P. Bowes Lyon

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ben Glazebrook, of London, and Rosie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Bowes Lyon, of St Paul's Walden Bury, Hertfordshire.

Mr I.J.B. Gray and Miss K.A. Stormont

The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Basil Gray, of Teviothead, Roxburghshire, and Karin, daughter of Mr Denys Stormont, of Cascais, Portugal, and of Mrs Aletta Brennan, of Shamley Green, Surrey.

Mr J.M. Horstead and Miss L.A. Mole

The engagement is announced between Jonathan Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Horstead, of West Horsley, Surrey, and Lucy Annabelle, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Mole, of Tewin, Hertfordshire.

Mr R.W. Jones and Miss R.D. Konsta

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs John Jones, of Kington-Langley, Wiltshire, and Rachael, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Demetrios Konsta, of Bristol.

Mr D.C. Moloney and Miss D.K. Dawnay

The engagement is announced between Denis Colman, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Moloney, of Dungarvan, Co Waterford, and Deborah Kate, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Richard Dawnay, of Bath.

Mr E.M.H. Page and Miss M.H. Murray

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Page, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Melissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Murray, of Mill Hill, London.

Mr J.R.A. Rennison and Miss S.K. Field

The engagement is announced between John Robert Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs R.W. Rennison, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Siân Kirin, eldest daughter of Mrs P. Field and Mr J. Pankhurst, of Dean's Grange, Co Dublin.

Mr D.C. Ross and Miss C.D. Isaacs

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mrs Mia Ross and the late Mr Eric Ross, and Catharine, daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony Isaacs.

Mr M.G. Wellings and Miss S.N.B. Skinner

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Wellings, of Poling, Sussex, and Sasha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Skinner, of Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.M. Wells and Miss L.A. Holmes

The engagement is announced between Daniel, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Wells, of Cosham, Portsmouth, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Holmes, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

Marriages

Mr R.A. Hodgson and Ms P.J. Vick

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 6, in Santa Barbara, California, of Mr Robert Hodgson, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Hodgson, of Wimbledon, and Ms Paula Vick, youngest daughter of Mr Paul Swackhamer and the late Mrs Cleo Swackhamer, of Santa Barbara, California.

Mr S.G. Holt and Miss C.J. Stanley

The marriage took place on April 20, at St James's Church, Finchampstead, Berkshire, of Simon Graham Holt to Celia Jane Stanley, both of Wargrave.

Legal appointments

Mr Kevin Edward **Barnett** to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Mr Charles Andrew Hamilton **Gibson** to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Denzil Anton **Lush** has been appointed Master of the Court of Protection.

Arnold School, Blackpool

The Centenary Summer term began on Thursday, April 18, and will end on Friday, July 5. Prince Michael of Kent visited the school on Thursday, April 25, and the Secretary of State for Education, Mrs Gillian Shephard, will be visiting on May 7. The Reception for new entrants and their parents will take place on June 10. Mr Peter Bentley, BSc, Second Master, retires in July after 37 years outstanding service to Arnold. A retirement dinner is to be held on June 21.

This term's Centenary events include: a recital by Julian Lloyd Webber on May 4; the Founder's Day Service on May 10 when the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will preach; the Founder's Dinner in the Spanish Hall, Winter Gardens on May 11 with Mr Bill Beaumont, OBE, as guest of honour; Bill Beaumont's XI v School 1st XI (Captain David Fielding) on May 12; the Leavers' Service on May 16 with Dr J. Holmes, Dean of Queens' College, Cambridge as guest speaker; the Sixth Form Summer Ball on June 28 at the Imperial Hotel and the Parents' & Friends' Grand Centenary Ball on June 29 at the Pembroke Hotel.

During the Summer vacation the 1st XV will tour in Australia and the Girls' Hockey 1st XI in South Africa; members of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and of the Combined Cadet Force will travel to the French and the Italian Alps and to the Canadian Rockies respectively; and a group of Sixth Formers will be working in Buigiri, Tanzania, on behalf of Village Aid.

Arnold School is a registered charity which exists for the education of children. Registered Charity No 331031.

Appointments

Fletchers' Company

The following have been installed officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr L.S. Johnson; Upper Warden, Major-General A.P.W. MacLellan; Renter Warden, Mr R.H. Upton.

Fuellers' Company

The following have been elected officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Edward Wilkinson; Senior Warden, Mr Colin MacLeod; Junior Warden, Mr David Waring.

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The Son of Man is going the way appointed for him in the scriptures; but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.
Mark 14 : 21 (REB)

BIRTHS

BASING - On April 18th 1996, to Sally (née Broome) and Malcolm, a daughter, Alexandra Rose Louise, a sister for William and Alaister.

CORDNER - On April 21st, to Celia (née Henson) and Grant, a son, Hamish George Moncrieff.

CURRAN - On April 19th at The Portland Hospital to Karen (née Bollom) and James a handsome son James Hamish to adore, and a pal for BJ (the dog).

DE AGUINAGA ALVERDE - Jose at The Portland Hospital was born on April 22nd, a brother for Iranizu, a son for Jose and Charito Bienvenido Al Mundo!

DORAN - On April 19th 1996, to Philip and Natasha (née Elliott), a daughter, Poppy Grace Megan.

ELMHIRST - On 18th April, to Karin and Orlando, twins, a son, Torin and a daughter, Linden.

FODEN - On April 18th 1996, to Emily (née Preece) and Christopher, a son, a brother for Madeline.

HADJIPATERAS - On April 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Daphne and Johnny, a beautiful daughter, Christianna, a sister for Eirini.

JONES - On 24th April, to Lesley (née Jarvis) and David, a precious gift of a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Jarvis.

LEFORT-GLAZER - On April 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Frederique and Ian, a son, Xavier Henri.

MURRAY - On 19th April 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Kimberly (née Crawford) and Colin, a son, Cameron Bryce, an answer to many prayers.

SPENGLER - On April 10th 1996, to Sarah and Stephen, a beautiful daughter, Brittany Ann.

VELAISE - On 9th March, to Jennifer (née Fate) and Jean-Louis, a son, Benjamin Hugh, a brother for Alexander.

WILLETTS - On April 18th, to Christine and Garry, a son, Douglas Anthony.

DEATHS

ATHILL - On 24th April, 1996, Winifred Mary, of Lindfield, Sussex. Funeral private. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the Cats Protection League may be sent c/o Masters & Son, 4 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2LB. (01444) 482107.

BARRAN - On April 24th 1996 Joan Barran of Burton Leonard, dearly loved sister of the late Dr. Kate Barran. Service at St Leonard's Church, Burton Leonard, on Tuesday 30th April at 11.15am followed by cremation. Flowers may be sent to Swainsons, Harrogate.

BOWEN - Colonel Cecil William M.C. O/ST/J, L/R.A.M.C. died aged 75 years in the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice on 19th April 1996. Husband of Rosemary (née Renshaw) for 49 years. Beloved father of Jane, Sarah, and Rupert. Dear grandpa to Adam and proud "Damper" to Rebecca, Oliver, and Rosie. "Non Omnis Morior" Family funeral followed by cremation. No flowers. If desired, donations to Army Benevolent Fund, or Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice. Funeral Directors: A.S. Morris & Son, Church Stretton.

BRIGGS - Kenneth Burnett of Olney, Buckinghamshire, on 22nd April 1996 suddenly at Milton Keynes General Hospital aged 83. Much loved by his late wife Margaret, son Simon, daughter-in-law Annette and grandchildren Rebecca and Jonathan. Cremation at Crownhill Crematorium, Milton Keynes, Monday 29th April at 1.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to H.W. Mason & Son, (01908) 611112.

CAMPBELL - Arthur John on 19th April in hospital aged 75 with great tolerance and fortitude. Father, grandfather, scientist, teacher and musician. Lt. Col. (retd). Freeman of the City. For many years head of physics City of London School. Funeral private. Memorial Service at 7 pm Thursday May 9th at CLS, Blackfriars, EC4. Donations in lieu of flowers to MacMillan Nurses.

COX - On 23rd April, suddenly, Bernard, husband of the late Margaret, father of Isobel, Elaine, James and Russell. Enquiries to Deric Scott, Bournemouth, (01202) 309609.

CRAWFORD - On April 25th 1996 at Lyme Regis, Mary Loraine, widow of Harold D. Crawford. Cremation at Yeovil Crematorium Wednesday 1st May 3 pm. Family flowers only, donations to Joseph Weld Hospice, Dorchester, Dorset.

DAVIDSON - On April 24th Dorothy Mary Brough peacefully at home, beloved widow of Jimmy, much loved mother of Diana and Celia and adored grandmother of Angus, Fiona, James, Thomas, Georgina and Annabel. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at All Saints, Terrington, on 29th April at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C. direct.

DUFF - Henry Emerson on 25th April suddenly at The Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester. Much loved father of Sandy and grandfather of Toby. Enquiries to Funeral Directors John Steele & Son, 6 Chesil Street, Winchester, (01962) 844044.

FRENCH - On 21st April 1996 peacefully in Yeovil Hospital Neville Arthur Irwin French C.M.G. L.V.O. aged 78 years of South Perrott, Dorset. Beloved husband of Joyce, much loved father of Deborah, Christopher and Barbara and a devoted grandpa and will be sadly missed by family and friends. Private cremation. A Thanksgiving Service will take place at St Mary's Church, South Perrott, Friday 3rd May at 2.30 pm. Donations for R.N.L.I. c/o A.J. Wakely & Sons, 7 North Street, Beaminster, Dorset.

FYFFE - Judith (née Burkitt), beloved wife of Tim, mother of Margaret and the late John, grandmother of Richard, suddenly on April 23rd. Funeral Service on Wednesday May 1st at 1.45pm at St Michael's Church, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. Donations if desired for the Marfan Association either to the Church or to F. Jennings & Sons Funeral Directors, Horseley Field, Wolverhampton, WV1 3DN.

HARVEY - Ronald John, beloved husband of the late Angela, on 23rd April after a long illness borne with courage and dignity. Much loved father to Rosanna and Julian. No flowers. Donations to St Wilfrids Hospice, Chichester.

HURLEY - The Venerable Patrick N. of Nether Compton, Dorset, formerly of Central and South America, on April 22nd, much loved husband of Mabel, dear father of Judith. Funeral Service at 2 pm May 1st Nether Compton Church.

KING - Geoffrey Charles Holmes, in his 100th year, widower of Rita (née Cartwright) on 22nd April 1996 peacefully in hospital. Sadly missed by children, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Richard, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at St John the Evangelist Church, Ashley Green, Chesham, on Tuesday 30th April 1996 at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but if desired donations for Marie Curie Cancer Care may be sent to A.C. Towner Limited, 2 & 4 Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6NH.

MacRAE - On Tuesday 23rd April 1996 peacefully, Helen Grace Simpson of Truro, Cornwall and formerly of Highgate, London. A dear mother of Mairi and Helen and a much loved grandmother. The funeral service will be held at Kenwyn Parish Church, Truro on Tuesday 30th April at 2 pm followed by interment.

MALCOLM - Alan Colin Drummond, formerly of Carshalton and latterly of Sutton, died peacefully at St Helier Hospital Carshalton on 4th April 1996. Service to be held at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Morden, on 7th May 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to MIND or MENCAP. All enquiries to W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd., tel: (0181) 642-8211.

MARTIN - On 24th April peacefully at Bordean House after a short illness, Norah Constance, beloved wife of Gordon, mother of Jamie and Tom and much loved by her five grandchildren. Family cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Peters Church, Ropley, on Friday 3rd May at 3 pm. Funeral flowers or donations to The Sue Ryder Foundation c/o Kemp & Stevens, 93 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1LG, 01420-83177/83377.

MARTIN - On 28th March, Hazel, widow of Geoffrey, mother of Christopher and Roger. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at 3 pm on Sunday 5th May at St Paul's Church, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill, London N21. Family flowers only but donations to St Paul's Church will be most welcome.

MORTON - Suddenly on Saturday 20th April 1996, Mary Hadwin Morton, born Simla, India on 21st November 1913. Dearly loved wife of Kenneth and much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral on Friday 3rd May 1996 at 2.30pm at St Nicholas Church, Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to The British Red Cross, Appeals Dept., 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ.

MURRAY-LESLIE - On 19th April Francis aged 88 of Boxmoor. Funeral Garston Crematorium, Watford, 11.45 am 29th April.

OUTHWAITE - Thomas Leslie, retired Solicitor, peacefully on April 17th aged 87 years. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday 2nd May 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Friends of the Elderly c/o F.W. Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT2 7AY, tel: (0181) 546-4813.

PAFFARD - Douglas Gilliat, aged 77, died peacefully at home on April 23rd 1996. Dearly loved husband to Margaret and ever happy father to Roger, Mary, Sally, Jane and grandfather to Danielle, Rebecca, Cyd and Lucy. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Meopham, on Thursday May 2nd at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if wished to "Ellenor Foundation - Hospice and Home Care Team" c/o Viner & Sons Ltd., 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU, tel: (01732) 842485.

PAYNTER - Rex suddenly at home on 22nd April, adored husband of Kate, loving father of Rosemary and John and a good friend to many. Funeral Service to be held at 3 pm on Tuesday 30th April at the Chilterns Crematorium, Old Amersham, Bucks. Flowers and enquiries to G. Hall & Sons, 3 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. (01442) 252395.

ROCHFORD - Benedict suddenly on April 8th aged 20, dearly loved son and brother of Dominic and Gregory. Funeral Service at Old Hall Green Parish Church, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire, on Tuesday 30th April at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Musicians Institute (London) Ltd. for a memorial to Ben c/o C. Powell Funeral Service Ltd., 79 Burford Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8HX.

SKIDMORE - (Woodford) Dorothy on 24th April 1996 peacefully at home aged 82, much beloved partner of Ken and a devoted mother. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Binfield, near Bracknell, on Tuesday 30th April at 11.30 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund c/o Cyril H. Lovegrove, 4/5 Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1AT, tel: (01344) 421949.

TEBBIT - On 24th April 1996 peacefully at Burrswood Christian Centre, Groombridge, Pamela Tebbit (née Grace), MBE, beloved wife of Peter and greatly loved mother of Sarah and Simon, grandmother (Bo) of Edward, Laura and Joanna, and sister to David, Helen, Jeremy and Virginia. Private cremation and Service of Thanksgiving at Crockham Hill Church at 2 pm on Wednesday, 1st May. No flowers. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

WALKER - Patricia on Wednesday 24th April 1996 aged 76 years, beloved wife of the late Major Denzil Walker, mother of Robert, Jane and Patrick, much loved grandmother. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Wytham, Oxford, on Tuesday 30th April 1996 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Save the Children Fund c/o Edward Carter, 107 South Avenue, Abingdon, OX14 1QS.

WIECK - Elisabeth Margaret (née Dalgliesh) suddenly but peacefully on April 24th at Royal Hampshire County Hospital. 'Much loved'. Funeral Service at Cheriton Parish Church, nr. Winchester on Wednesday May 1st at 11.30 am. Flowers to Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester, SO23 0HU.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FRASER - A Memorial Service for Dr. Caroline Fraser will be held on Saturday 25th May 1996 at 3 pm in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

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OBITUARIES

RAYMOND RAMSAY

Raymond Ramsay, MBE, surgeon and Japanese PoW, died on April 3 aged 79. He was born on August 19, 1916.

A SURGEON whose character was moulded and strengthened by his gruelling experiences as a prisoner of war in Rangoon Jail, Raymond Ramsay was one of that first generation of consultants who built up the National Health Service in Britain. He was chairman of the medical management committee which designed Wexham Park Hospital, the second NHS hospital, after Swindon, to be built. He also chaired a similar committee for the nearby Nuffield private hospital.

With a deftness of personal approach and a medical dexterity which owed much to his wartime experiences, he proved an outstanding clinician. He pioneered surgical techniques in the provinces, being among the first to develop the use of X-ray during surgery. He was also at the forefront of developments in thyroid surgery.

Raymond Ramsay was born in a ramshackle tin hospital in the little town of Peddie, Cape Province, South Africa. His father, who ran a trading post, had gone there with the aim of making enough money to retire. Having achieved this by the mid-1920s, he moved back to Britain with his family.

The young Ramsay was educated at St Marylebone Grammar School before going on in 1932 to study medicine at Barts. His brother was also a student there, and his father, with the wiliness of an old trader, bargained for a discount in the fees.

Ramsay qualified as a doctor in 1938, but, with the outbreak of hostilities, volunteered for active service and was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps and posted to India.

In 1941 Ramsay was due to take leave in Britain, but a few days before — while going through the somewhat absurd performance of taking a mounted sick parade for a cavalry regiment — his horse bolted and he was thrown, fracturing his arm. He was unable to return to England. In one sense, the accident was extremely fortunate. The ship he was to have sailed in was torpedoed on the way home and all its passengers perished.

Left behind in the East, however, Ramsay was not to evade a harrowing ordeal himself. Promoted to the rank of major, he was appointed Brigade Medical Officer to Orde Wingate's first expedition into Burma. Though tough, with a strong fighting spirit and trained for jungle manoeuvres, the expedition was severely outnumbered by the Japanese and suffered heavy losses. In order to survive, Wingate ordered them to divide into several dispersal groups and try to work their way back to the British lines.

Taking command of one of these groups, Ramsay led his men back through the dense thickets. It was a perilous task and more than ten of the thirty under his command were slaughtered in jungle ambushes. Only six months later did they succeed in reaching a tributary of the Chindwin River on the other side of which, less than half a mile away, they could see the British lines. But, just when it seemed that safety was at hand, they were ambushed by a Japanese platoon, who opened fire at point blank range, and took the whole group prisoner.

Wounded in the foot, Ramsay would probably have died had it not been for the Japanese orderly who, taking pity on him, procured an elephant for him to ride. He also removed the bullet and dressed the wound with a bandage which Ramsay was to wear for the next six months, washing out the tattered scrap of cloth every day.

Ramsay arrived at Rangoon jail in 1943. As he sat in the solitary confinement of a dark cramped cell on his 28th birthday, a watery bowl of rice pushed under the grating each day, he remembered the predictions of a gypsy who had read his fortune as a child at a Somerset fair. She had foretold that he would become a surgeon, but that there would be darkness surrounding his 28th year.

Ramsay's medical skills were invaluable in the jail. He ran a hospital ward — known as 6th block — and organised a rota so that the prisoners, drained by hard labour, could each benefit in turn from a brief respite. He proved an inventive pharmacologist. Men from the work parties found what they called "blue stones" — copper sulphate — which were crushed and mixed with water as an antidote for jungle sores. Guards were also bribed to bring in poppies which were fermented to produce a form of morphine, used to counteract dysentery and cholera. Old razor blades were purloined for primitive surgery and bamboo canes were used to splint broken limbs. But when a Japanese guard gave Ramsay a bottle of sake, he — after long deliberations as to how best to use it — drank it with the chaplain in the small hours of the morning.

Diplomatic by nature, Ramsay proved himself a considerable negotiator with his captors. Once, a guard even risked his position to pay Ramsay the respect of a salute. Rather than retreating into loathing of his captors, Ramsay coped by laughing and poking fun at them. His irrepressible humour raised morale throughout the camp and helped many of his fellow prisoners to endure their ordeal.

After more than two years in captivity, with the war now ending, the Japanese prepared to evacuate the jail. Ramsay was given the unenviable task of dividing the men into those who could march and those who were too weak to make the journey. Fortunately, those who stayed were in the event spared. Those who marched had a perilous journey, staggering barefoot in the scorching heat along a railway line amid the closing stages of the war as the Allied troops advanced. They were eventually rescued by an advancing battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment, though the prisoners, their eyesight blurred by starvation, could hardly recognise them.

After a brief period of recuperation in India, Ramsay was posted back to Britain. As the first medical officer to return from Japanese captivity, his advice was sought over the treatment which would be required for PoWs. A number of psychiatrists had been provided, but Ramsay considered they would not be needed. Anyone who had survived the brutal conditions of a Japanese camp would have developed their own inner mechanisms to cope, he said.

Ramsay returned to Barts in 1946 to become senior demonstrator in anatomy. One evening a friend stopped him by the fountain to show him the paper with news that he had been appointed MBE (mil).

He then went to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital where he gained his FRCS in 1949. He became senior surgical registrar at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in 1951. Two years later he was appointed consultant general surgeon to the Windsor group of hospitals.

Outside his work he was a keen sailor, and generations of students and fellow doctors from Barts enjoyed his hospitality on the yacht which he moored on the Isle of Wight.

Raymond Ramsay is survived by his wife Lillian, whom he married in 1952, and by their three sons.

EVA JONES

Eva Jones, author, died in London on April 17 aged 82. She was born in Berlin on July 27, 1913.

A GERMAN Jew, cast adrift from her culture by the rise of Naziism, Eva Jones lived a life of displacement, feeling, as she put it, "like a plant with its roots in the air". It was not until she was 56 that she published her first volume of poetry, *Just a Woman*, which was to set her on her career as a writer. In 1976 she published a novel *Thirteen* — the first-person narrative of a precocious adolescent who falls in love with her 50-year-old therapist. She followed this with four more novels: *Double Decker, Malou, Miss Stipplekin* and *Taboo.*

Eva Solon, as she was before she married, was born in Berlin, the daughter of a barrister. An effervescent girl, she made the acquaintance of her future husband, Rudy Jonas, in breathless snatches of conversation as they danced the tango. Then she was just 16, but two years after she had fled from Germany to Paris in 1933, she married him.

At that time he was a student, while she was earning her living as a singer in an anti-Nazi cabaret. Penurious, they would spend their evenings in Montparnasse, eking out a café crème while they mingled with the exiled literary and intellectual elite of Germany. Among their acquaintances they included Thomas Mann. During the day she trained as an opera singer. Her teacher, recognising the fineness of her soprano voice — a voice capable of stretching to the uppermost reaches of Mozart's Queen of the Night — coached her without payment for six years.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, Eva Jones was interned with other German Jewish refugees in the Camp de Gurs in the Pyrenees. But recognising the danger she was in when the Germans began to advance she escaped — by then so thin that she could slip through the wire. Earning a meagre living selling newspapers in Toulouse, she was reunited with her husband.

Shortly afterwards Eva Jones was again sent to an enforced residence in the Pyrenees, but again escaped, having heard that all Jews were to be deported to Poland. However, it was not long until German troops were to march into the "free zone" and she and her husband were forced to flee once more. With a gun-smuggler as a guide, they crossed the Pyrenees one freezing snowbound December night, in a journey so tough, her husband was later to recall, that had Eva not forced him onwards with their guide's revolver at his back, he would never have made it. On their arrival in a small Spanish village they were incarcerated but not deported, as they would have been had they tried to enter the country by more orthodox means.

It was the British Embassy which eventually negotiated their release. Eva Jones was flown, via Gibraltar, to Oxford where she joined her parents who had escaped from Berlin shortly before the outbreak of war. Her husband Rudy Jonas enlisted in the British Army and changed his name to Jones. He was among the first to march into his home city of Berlin, but for him it was a sour victory. He arrived to find that his whole family had been killed.

After the war Eva Jones and her husband settled in Hampstead. She taught German and became involved in a flourishing poetry scene. But, encountering much discrimination as an "enemy alien," she never sang professionally again.

Her first book of poetry was published in 1969. It was followed by five novels. Her second, *Double Decker*, was strongly autobiographical in tone. "Most of us had fled the German Fatherland when Hitler came to power in 1933. Now that's a single sentence, 15 words and one full stop. But squeezed into it is such torment and pain that it could not be contained in one hundred volumes," Jones's narrator says. *Malou*, the story of a gifted singer who refuses to recognise her talents, also rings a wistfully autobiographical note.

But Eva Jones never lingered overmuch in the past. Ever passionate in her pursuit of new ideas, she developed a deep interest in Eastern spirituality. It was she, too, who was behind her husband when at the age of 75 he took a degree at the LSE followed by a PhD. Even when she suffered a severe stroke in 1988 she struggled to go on writing, dictating her work to a friend.

Eva Jones is survived by her husband and their daughter.

PROFESSOR HUGH COCKERELL

Professor Hugh Cockerell, OBE, Secretary of the Chartered Insurance Institute, 1945-71, and subsequently Professor of Insurance Studies at City University, died on April 21 aged 86. He was born on May 16, 1909.

HUGH COCKERELL was the leading British authority on the theory and practice of insurance. A naturally shy man, his self-effacing nature hid a wide range of talents and accomplishments. During his 25 years as the chief executive of the Chartered Insurance Institute, he transformed its standing as the professional body of the insurance world and several of his publications have become standard works.

Although Cockerell ended his life as a highly respected City and academic figure, that was hardly an outcome that could have been foreseen in his early years. His father ran a family estate agency and Hugh Cockerell grew up in Putney as an only child. He was sent to boarding schools from the age of seven, so that he could be with other children. But he hated Bridlington School in Yorkshire — not least for its lumpy porridge.

He sought consolation by learning to play bridge, a passion that lasted a lifetime. But at the age of 16 he had to leave Bridlington when his father's business collapsed. Taking a job as a clerk processing motor insurance claims, he continued to work determinedly by night to attain the academic and professional qualifications he lacked.

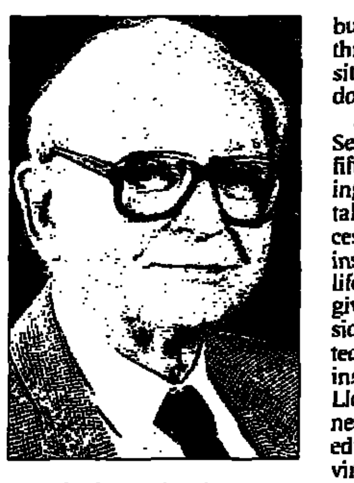
Cockerell studied for an external degree in history at King's College London, where he got a first. He excelled too in his professional exams, passing the Chartered Insurance Institute's Fellowship examination, the industry's top qualification, three years before he was even entitled to apply. But Cockerell found the institute fustily hierarchical.

He wrote an anonymous article for his trade union journal entitled *What's wrong with the CII?* It caused a storm in the insurance world, but the author's identity was never uncovered.

Cockerell was a lifelong supporter of the Labour Party and it was at a Fabian Summer School in 1936 that he first met Fanny Jochelman, who was making a name for herself as a writer.

They daringly decided to live together in what was then known as a "trial marriage". Though they both felt the trial a failure, in the end they changed their minds and married in 1938. They remained devotedly together until her death nearly fifty years later.

Cockerell worked for Naval Intelligence during the war. He learnt Japanese and sought to decipher intercepted Japanese signals. In his spare time he read for the Bar and qualified as a barrister. He was called by the Middle



Temple in 1945. That same year he applied successfully to become the Secretary of the CII, without admitting authorship of his anonymous article.

He immediately embarked on a programme of wholesale reform of the institute. He was determined to impress on the insurance industry the need for professional training to the highest standards. He wanted to place CII qualifications on a par with university degrees and to win worldwide recognition for the institute. Under him, CII membership doubled, and he was appointed OBE in 1964.

Cockerell published the first of his 13 books in 1957. *Teach Yourself Insurance* brought an apparently dry subject elegantly to life. Subsequent books included a portrait of Lloyd's and the *Dictionary of Insurance*.

On retirement from the CII in 1971 he became a Senior Research Fellow at the City University and later Professor of Insurance Studies there. He built up from scratch a now thriving faculty. The university awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1990.

At a CII lunch, given last September to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his joining the institute, Cockerell talked candidly about the successes and failures of the insurance industry during his lifetime. He was proud to have given it a proper and professional structure. But he regretted that during his tenure "the institute failed to convince Lloyd's that underwriters needed a proper technical education and failed to convince many life insurance companies of the need for their sales staff to operate in a professional manner".

"We did our best but everybody is the prisoner of preconceived ideas," he continued. "Certainly I was, for in all I did I thought of the needs of the lean and hungry young clerks — such as I had been, when setting out on an insurance career. I may have grown to be a fat cat, but the lean and hungry man within me kept gnawing away." After paying graceful tribute to the current CII staff, he ended the speech: "And now I must go home and feed my own lean and hungry cats."

Cockerell loved cats and crosswords: he would complete *The Times* crossword each day, normally well within the half-hour. Formidably well-read, he was a devotee of Trollope, contributing wittily erudite articles to the Trollope Society's journal.

Hugh Cockerell is survived by his two sons and a daughter.

DR PETER NEWBOLD

Dr Peter Newbold, consultant dermatologist, Worcester Royal Infirmary, 1973-95, died from leukaemia on March 28 aged 57. He was born in Manchester on June 23, 1938.

THERE were two strands to Peter Newbold's life. Professionally, he practised as a physician in Worcester; aesthetically, he was a connoisseur of music, words and the fine arts. Each of these strands derived its strength from his encyclopaedic erudition, supported by a photographic memory.

Peter Charles Hutchinson Newbold was educated at King William's College, Isle of Man, where he took Classics, and then read medicine at New College, Oxford, before going on to Guy's Hospital Medical School, London.

After junior hospital training posts in London, he spent two years at the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California. This was followed by another two years in Cambridge and he was awarded the Oxford DM in 1974 for his thesis on skin cancers. He was appointed as consultant dermatologist to the Worcester Royal Infirmary in 1973. There he built up a busy dermatological service which, without junior staff, made heavy demands on his time and health; and, in keeping with his deeply held Christian principles, he voluntarily extended his care and compassion to patients suffering from terminal illnesses.

He continued to keep a base in London, where he had a wide circle of friends who shared his love of opera, fine arts and travel. A generous host, he made use of his membership of the Travellers Club to entertain his friends in elegant surroundings with good food and wine — and with conversation which could range from obscure 18th-century operas to contemporary musicals, from 15th-century stained glass manufacture to the glories of Wren's City churches, and from princelings listed in the *Almanac de Gotha* to detailed accounts of meals taken in Michelin-starred restaurants. He also had a sharp eye for the absurdities of everyday life and would entertain his guests by reading out snippets from the newspapers.

An indefatigable traveller, speaking fluent French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, he would think nothing of flying to San Francisco for a few days to hear Dame Joan Sutherland open in a new production at the Opera House or of spending a weekend in Erfurt in Germany, photographing 16th-century stained glass windows in the church where Luther had preached.

Patrician in appearance, he set himself the highest standards and expected high standards from others; he had little time for fools, and none at all for incompetence. Both his legs were broken some years ago in a traffic accident. Since then he had suffered from recurrent infections which gradually undermined his health and forced him to retire from his work at the early age of 56.

He never married.

ON THIS DAY

April 26, 1915

The news of the death of Rupert Brooke (1887-1915) came to The Times from the Admiralty where Winston Churchill was First Lord, and where he wrote this appreciation of the poet.

DEATH OF MR. RUPERT BROOKE

SUNSTROKE AT LEMNOS.

We regret to record the death, on April 23, at Lemnos, from the effects of sunstroke, of Rupert Brooke, the poet, a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Naval Division.

"W.S.C." writes: "Rupert Brooke is dead. A telegram from the Admiral at Lemnos tells us that this life has closed at the moment when it seemed to have reached its springtime. A voice had become audible, a note had been struck, more true, more thrilling, more able to do justice to the nobility of our youth in arms engaged in this present war, than any other — more able to express their thoughts of self-surrender, and with a power to carry comfort to those who watch them so intently from afar. The voice has been swiftly stilled. Only the echoes and the memory remain; but they will linger. During the last few months of his life, months of preparation in gallant comradeship and open air, the poet-soldier told with all the simple force of genius the sorrow of youth about to die, and the sure triumphant consolations of a sincere and valiant spirit. He expected to die; he was willing to die for the dear England whose beauty and majesty he knew; and he advanced towards the brink in perfect serenity, with absolute conviction of the rightness of his country's cause and a heart devoid of hate for fellow-men. The very thoughts to which he gave expression in the few war sonnets he has left behind will be shared by many young men, moving resolutely forward into this, the hardest, the cruellest, and the least-rewarded of all the wars that men have fought. They are a whole history and revelation of Rupert Brooke himself. Joyous, fearless, versatile, deeply instructed, with classic symmetry of mind and body, ruled by high undoubting purpose, he was all that one would wish England's noblest sons to be in days when no sacrifice but the most precious is acceptable, and the most precious is that which is most freely proffered ... In September he was given a commission as sub-lieutenant in the Hood Battalion of the Royal Naval Division, and took part in the expedition to Antwerp; and after a winter's training at Blandford Camp he sailed on February 28 for the Dardanelles. He had a slight sunstroke early in April, and this seems to have led to a serious illness, ending last Friday in his death from blood-poisoning on board a French hospital ship. He was buried in Lemnos on Saturday. Few men have been so instantly and so lastingly attractive; and every month seemed to bring out of his nature some new treasure of courage, gentleness, or manly wisdom. It is clear that the war surprised him, and that he found in his readiness to do his duty a high religious joy. Those five sonnets published in "New Numbers" last December express this joy without the misgiving and emotional insecurity of his earlier verse. The one which the Dean of St Paul's quoted in his sermon on Easter Day deserved the praise which he gave to it. Finer still, perhaps, was the one on the Dead, which ends thus:

There are waters blown by changing winds to laughter
And lit by the rich skies, all day. And after,
Frost, with a gesture, stays the waves that dance
And wandering loveliness. He leaves a white
Unbroken glory, a gathered radiance,
A width, a shining peace, under the night.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Bridge bombs were IRA's biggest

■ Two Semtex bombs that failed to go off on Hammersmith Bridge on Wednesday night were the biggest ever planted by the IRA on mainland Britain.

The planned "spectacular" — using two devices containing 30 to 40lbs of Semtex — would have blasted the structure of the west London bridge and threatened the lives of hundreds of people had the detonators worked .... Pages 1, 7

Release 'victory for love and truth'

■ Jonathan Jones, the businessman jailed for murdering his girlfriend's parents, was freed by the Court of Appeal after three judges took five minutes to decide that the convictions were unsafe. Cheryl Tooze, his partner of 15 years who had fought a long and dedicated campaign to prove his innocence, ran to the dock and kissed him through the bars .... Pages 1, 3

Three CJD cases

Three people appear to have developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in a Kent town where BSE, "mad cow" disease, was first identified .... Page 1

VAT overpaid

Shops and discount stores selling goods on interest-free credit could be free to reclaim up to £5 billion in overpaid VAT, after a landmark ruling in the Court of Appeal .... Pages 1, 2

Murder trial collapses

A rare private murder prosecution collapsed after the judge told the dead man's family that the evidence of an important witness was unsafe to be put before the jury .... Page 5

No entry plan

Plans to give local councils the power to limit the number of cars entering town and city centres were unveiled by the Transport Secretary .... Page 6

Rotary revolution

Another refuge of male supremacy has fallen after an overwhelming vote by members of the Rotary Club of London to open its doors to women .... Page 8

Brussels setback

Farmers who once grew Brussels sprouts are turning to coriander because changing culinary fashions is leading to a decline in demand for what was once a staple vegetable .... Page 9

Labour doubts

The public has become more dubious about whether a Labour government would keep its promises, says the latest MORI poll .... Page 10

Divorce Bill trouble

The Lord Chancellor's controversial divorce reform laws look set to run into more trouble next week with Labour joining Tory rebels in backing fresh amendments .... Page 11

Boy, 6, 'beat child'

A four-week-old boy was critically ill in San Francisco after being beaten by three youngsters aged between six and eight who broke into his parents' flat .... Page 14

Peace mission

Under the shadow of continued bombardments on both sides of Israel's northern border, Warren Christopher's punishing shuttle peace mission was moving towards a critical phase..... Page 15

War criminal hunt

Iranian-trained commando units are reported to have been sent by the Bosnian Government to kill or capture those branded war criminals .... Page 16

Rand collapse

The collapse of the South African rand is turning into a sort of economic morality fable as the African National Congress-led Government is taught tough lessons by the markets .... Page 17

World Cup ball back in play

■ A much-scuffed English soccer icon may be bouncing home. Rival newspapers are fighting for possession of the ball which Geoff Hurst slid past the West German goalkeeper three times during the World Cup final of 1966. *The Sun* showed early promise but in the second half the *Daily Mirror* appeared to be in front with a reported offer of £80,000 .... Page 1

MARTIN BEDDALL

Pipe Corporal Chris MacPherson at a dawn service in Battersea Park, south London, yesterday to mark Anzac Day. Page 17

BUSINESS

Prudential: The Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, has emerged as a strong contender to take over the Woolwich .... Page 25

Economy: The future direction of interest rates is in doubt after the publication of data showing weaker than expected growth in retail sales in March .... Page 25

ICI warning: Tough trading conditions gripping the industry took a toll on ICI as the chemicals group accompanied a 9 per cent drop in the first quarter profits with a warning of another shortfall in the second quarter .... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 1.7 to 3,819.3. Sterling climbed from 84.0 to 84.3 after a dip from $1.5128 to $1.5120 and a rise from DM2.3022 to DM2.3111 .... Page 28

SPORT

Football: Finding the right man is far more important than the hurry to find a successor to Terry Venables as England coach, whatever the team's performance in the European championship...Page 45

Cricket: Players and coaches have spent the past six weeks honing their tactics for the start today of the Benson and Hedges Cup under World Cup rules .... Page 48

Snooker: Ronnie O'Sullivan, who was said to have belittled his last opponent, Alain Robidoux, raced to a 6-2 lead over Tony Drago in the world championships .... Page 22

Women's football: Rachel Brown, 15, will become the youngest player in a women's FA Cup final when she plays for Liverpool against Croydon this weekend .... Page 48

Musical high: Graham Vick produces a minor miracle for English National Opera: a convincing staging of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* .... Page 35

Theatrical success: Wallace Shawn's new play for the National Theatre, *The Designated Mourner*, is highly unconventional and pretty rewarding, says Benedict Nightingale .... Page 36

Angry producer: Sir Peter Hall lashes out at the actors' union Equity for dictating who can and who cannot appear on stage .... Page 36

Pop on Friday: Great music from the Cranberries on their latest album; plus a fine debut by Longpigs. And Caitlin Moran shares a little "joyful abundance" with the Bluetones .... Page 37

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ SNAP HAPPY
A Fujicolor Quicksnap camera for every entrant in our young photographer competition

■ PLUS . . .
Vision, the seven-day television and radio guide

Do you want to be alone? Few people really are happy living on their own, says Candida Crewe. They just pretend they are not lonely .... Page 18

Valerie Grove with Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, who has just told the Women Lawyers' conference what he thinks of their feminist ideas .... Page 19

EDUCATION

Staying away: 20,000 children are being educated at home. Why some parents prefer their children not to go to school .... Page 39

Leisure learning: Details on the variety of courses being offered by universities and independent schools this summer .... Page 39

FOCUS

Talking it up: A report on mobile communications, a market that is now taking in so much more than an easy phone call ...... Pages 32-34

THE PAPERS

It is not enough just to get the Russians and their neighbours to close their other Chernobyls. They have to be allowed to dispose of equivalent sources of energy. This is not just a question of necessity but also of solidarity because only one single unreliable nuclear power station is enough to put the whole world in danger

— *La Libre Belgique*

Preview: *Tomorrow's World* investigates an alternative system to radar for keeping air travel safe (BBC1, 7.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on the grimly fascination tale of the Unabomber .... Page 47

Punch and judy

If Labour MPs care about the family they must not let cheap political victory obscure the importance of sorting out messy divorce procedures .... Page 21

A crowded road

The Transport Green Paper is an attempt to give coherence to policy by balancing environmental and economic interests .... Page 21

Touch of leather

They may have thought it was all over 30 years ago. But it will not be, until the true World Cup ball is safely back in England .... Page 21

PAUL BARKER

In the 20th century, in Western societies, marriage has become an ideal of emotional partnership. Many parents began to feel that their own demands, their own gratifications, were as important as the children's. But it becomes obvious that what matters most in a marriage is what it does for the next generation. Nothing matters as much as the children .... Page 20

BERNARD LEVIN

Now who would think that a treasure trove was lurking in the calm recesses of *100 Rare Books on 100 Different Subjects*? Not I. Nor did I think that I would have found myself in the middle of an argument between a leading astronomer and Voltaire .... Page 20

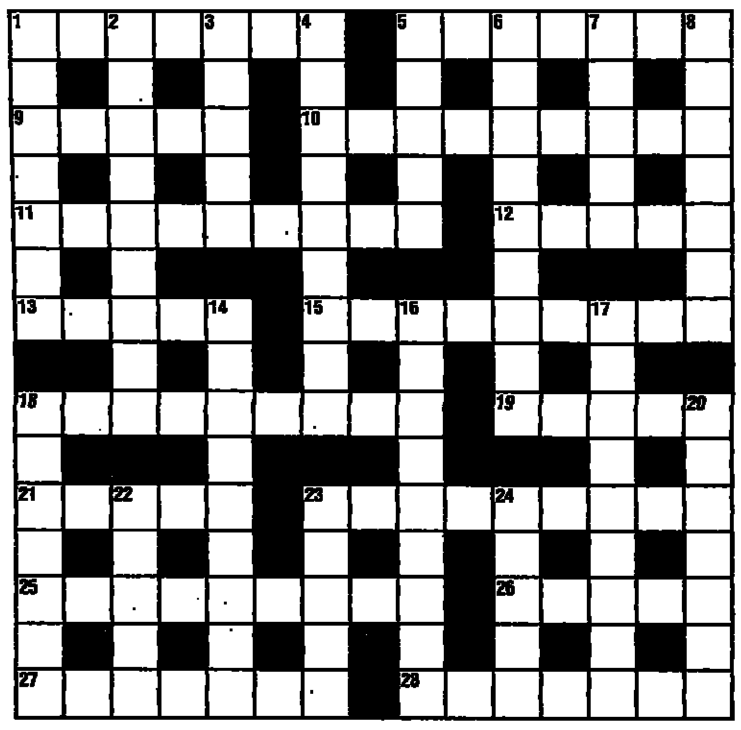
PETER RIDDELL

The public is dissatisfied with the Tories, but, as the latest poll shows, many voters have doubts about what Labour would do in office .... Page 10

Raymond Ramsay, surgeon and Japanese PoW; **Professor Hugh Cockerell**, authority on insurance; **Eva Jones**, author; **Dr Peter Newbold**, dermatologist .... Page 23

Official secrecy; UK in Europe; education; Bafta awards; youth and the Church; milk and breast cancer; Gibraltar .... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,152



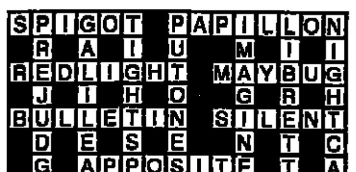
ACROSS

1 Song about bounder in the Greek department (7).
5 Panel with French frozen scene (7).
9 Hang out in back of beyond by water-hole (5).
10 She produces silly stories full of banal sentimentality, primarily (3,6).
11 Goods carrier on certain trips (9).
12 Game shoots (5).
13 Records here discounted – 50% off (5).
15 One of a group of solicitors working at cross purposes? (9).
18 Usual decree for such a partner? On the contrary (6-3).
19 One not a hit as minor actor (5).
21 A warning concerning doctors put about (5).
23 Leguminous plant with powdered head (9).
25 Routine preparations one in suit finds a chore (9).
26 Uncomplaining, so admits to being a philosopher (5).
27 Like some tyres, not soft in disagreeable way (7).
28 What's left in 9, containing uranium (7).

DOWN

1 Cited dictator in supplement (7).
2 Dress in which hems can go crooked (9).
3 Area where soil's deposited as flower comes out (5).
4 Compound cleans air of poison (9).
5 Part of plant that's underground, right? (5).
6 Canned fruit for first meeting arranged (5,4).
7 Start – head off for the middle of America (5).
8 Rebel force occupying ancient city (7).
14 Rude solos in mess, without any humming (9).
16 The Statesman magazine? (3,6).
17 Stayed at home to cultivate daughter's ornamental tree (9).
18 Great work in Derby, for example (7).
20 One gives prompt assistance as car's held up by copper, note (7).
22 Head old party (5).
23 Such dignity, when old, is standard (5).
24 Is detective using sense, and informers? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,151



Times Two Crossword, page 48

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W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
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Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

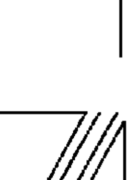
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.42 am
Sun sets: 8.16 pm
Moon sets 2.30 am
Moon rises 12.36 pm

Full moon May 3

London 8.16 pm to 5.40 am
Bristol 8.26 pm to 5.50 am
Edinburgh 8.42 pm to 5.38 am
Manchester 8.30 pm to 5.42 am
Penzance 8.34 pm to 6.05 am



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995

FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will have a dry, bright day, though the west and northwest will see some cloud. Temperatures will be above normal, especially in the east.

Northern Ireland and north and west Scotland will have normal temperatures and rain or drizzle at times. Eastern Scotland will be warm and mostly dry. Breezy in north.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E England, Midlands, SW England, Central N:** dry and bright, with some sun. Wind W or NW light. Warm in most places. Max 16-18C (61-64F).

Channel Isles: dry and bright. Wind N or NE, light. Warm. Max 14C (57F).

S Wales, N Wales, NW England: rather cloudy, perhaps some coastal drizzle. Wind SW or W, mainly light. Max 14C (57F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland. mostly cloudy, but bright intervals. Perhaps some patchy drizzle. Wind SW, light or moderate. Max 14C (57F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: mostly dry and bright, sunny intervals. Wind SW, light or moderate. Warm. Max 15-17C (59-63F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with hill fog. Rain or drizzle at times. Wind S or SW, mainly moderate. Max 11-13C (52-55F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain in north, dry in south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

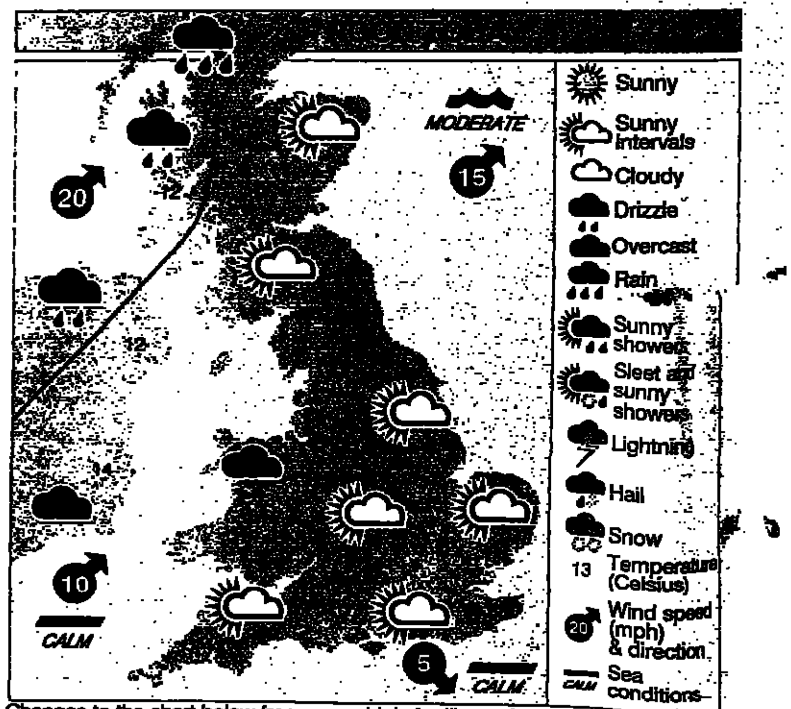
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Anglesey	2.5	0.01	11	52	sh	Lerwick	2.6	0.28	10	50	d
Aspatria	2.5	0.07	11	52	r	Leuchars	6.2	0.01	14	57	r
Aviemore	6.8	0.05	16	61	b	Littlehmptn	9.8	-	15	59	s
Belfast	-	0.28	14	57	r	London	8.5	-	16	61	s
Birmingham	8.5	0.01	16	61	s	Lowestoft	7.6	-	16	61	s
Bognor R	11.9	-	16	61	s	Manchester	4.5	0.07	14	57	s
Bournem'th	10.5	0.01	16	61	s	Margate	10.5	-	15	59	s
Bristol	9.2	-	14	57	s	Minehead	12.4	-	14	57	s
Buxton	7.1	0.09	13	55	s	Newcastle	4.6	0.01	13	55	r
Cardiff	10.9	-	13	55	s	Oxford	6.8	-	16	61	s
Clacton	9.2	0.06	11	52	s	Penzance	11.6	-	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	3.4	-	15	59	b	Plymouth	10.1	0.01	13	55	s
Cromer	11.1	-	15	59	s	Poole	9.9	-	18	64	s
Eastbourne	8.8	-	13	55	s	Prestatyn	X	0.01	13	55	r
Eskdalemuir	0.9	0.16	9	48	r	Ross-o-wye	8.5	-	16	61	s
Exmouth	11.6	-	16	61	s	Ryde	11.9	-	16	61	s
Falmouth	11.1	0.02	17	63	s	Salcombe	12.6	-	15	59	s
Fishguard	0.7	0.01	13	55	c	Sandown	11.5	-	15	59	s
Folkestone	9.9	-	14	57	b	Saunton Snd	9.8	-	14	57	s
Glasgow	3.2	0.09	12	54	r	Scarboro'	9.8	0.02	14	57	s
Guernsey	12.2	-	15	59	s	Southend	9.4	-	15	59	s
Hastings	10.5	-	13	55	s	Southport	3.6	-	11	52	s
Hayling I.	11.1	0.01	16	61	s	Southsea	9.7	0.01	15	59	s
Herne Bay	9.8	-	15	59	s	Stornoway	3.4	0.01	13	55	b
Hove	10.1	-	12	54	b	Swanage	9.5	-	14	57	s
Ilfracombe	1.0	-	15	59	r	Teignmouth	9.9	0.01	17	63	s
Isle of Man	0.7	0.06	11	52	r	Tiree	1.8	0.17	11	52	r
Jersey	10.4	-	15	59	s	Torquay	11.0	-	17	63	s
Kinloss	10.0	0.01	16	61	s	Ventnor	12.1	-	13	55	s
Leeds	7.6	0.05	14	57	sh	Weymouth	9.8	-	13	55	s

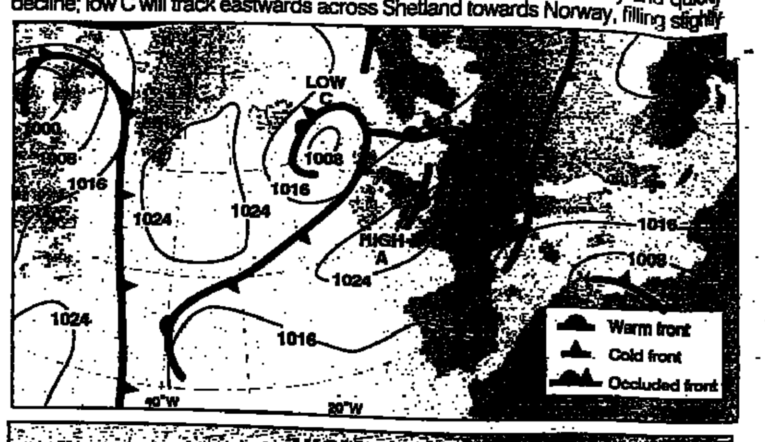
ABROAD

Ajaccio	17	63	c	Corfu	18	64	f	Madrid	18	64	f	Riyadh	34	93	s
Akrotiri	18	64	t	C'phagn	13	55	c	Majorca	19	66	f	Rome	21	70	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	12	54	c	Malaga	20	68	t	S Fr'isco	18	64	s
Algiers	15	59	r	Dubrovnik	18	64	f	Malta	20	68	s	S Paulo	27	81	s
Amst'dm	15	59	f	Faro	22	72	s	Melb'rne	20	68	f	Salzburg	12	54	c
Athens	20	68	s	Florence	18	64	f	Mexico C	20	68	f	Santiago	19	66	s
B Aires	21	70	f	Frankfurt	16	61	c	Miami	29	84	s	Seoul	20	68	s
Bahrain	34	93	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Milan	19	66	f	Sing'por	29	84	c
Bangkok	34	93	t	Geneva	16	61	s	Montreal	12	54	f	St'kholm	10	50	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	20	68	f	Moscow	15	59	t	Strasb'rg	15	59	f
Barcelona	18	64	s	Helsinki	3	37	r	Munich	11	52	r	Sydney	23	73	s
Beirut	18	64	s	Hong K	24	75	f	N Delhi	34	93	s	Tangier	X		
Belgrade	23	73	f	Innsbrck	13	55	c	N York	22	72	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Berlin	13	55	r	Istanbul	11	52	f	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tenerife	20	68	c
Bermuda	20	68	c	Jeddah	28	82	f	Naples	21	70	f	Tokyo	21	70	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jo'burg	21	70	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	4	39	r
Borde'x	16	61	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	6	43	d	Tunis	21	70	f
Brussels	13	55	f	L Angels	24	75	s	Paris	12	54	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Budapest	22	72	f	L Palmas	21	70	f	Peking	22	72	c	Vanc'ver	10	50	r
Cairo	20	68	f	Le Touquet	12	54	f	Perth	22	72	c	Venice	16	61	f
Cape Tn	19	66	s	Lisbon	19	66	s	Prague	14	57	c	Vienna	19	66	c
Ch'church	31	88	s	Locarno	16	61	f	Reykjavik	6	43	f	Warsaw	25	77	s
Chicago	7	45	s	Luxembg	14	57	c	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wash'ton	27	81	f
Cologne	16	61	f	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	27	81	s	Wel'ngton	13	55	r
												Zurich	13	55	f

Temperatures at midday on Wednesday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A will remain stationary and quickly decline; low C will track eastwards across Shetland towards Norway, filling slightly



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:58	5.8	7:14	5.7	Leith	8:13	4.3	9:10	4.2
Aberdeen	7:07	3.3	8:11	3.2	Liverpool	4:26	7.3	5:09	7.0
Avonmouth	-	-	12:16	9.5	Lowestoft	3:43	2.0	3:44	2.1
Belfast	4:46	3.1	5:26	2.8	Margate	5:36	3.8	5:56	3.8
Cardiff	11:55	9.1	-	-	Milford Haven	11:53	4.9	-	-
Devonport	10:58	4.1	11:23	4.3	Newquay	11:14	4.7	11:55	4.9
Dover	4:44	5.2	5:16	5.2	Oban	12:00	2.7	11:59	2.9
Dublin (N Wall)	5:33	3.3	6:21	3.1	Penzance	10:30	4.1	11:04	4.3
Falmouth	11:16	3.7	11:49	4.0	Portland	11:42	1.2	11:44	1.3
Greenock	5:39	2.9	4:34	2.6	Portsmouth	4:25	3.7	5:19	3.8
Harwich	5:06	3.2	5:31	3.2	Shoreham	4:30	4.8	5:24	4.7
Holyhead	3:46	4.4	4:45	4.2	Southampton	4:01	3.6	4:53	3.6
Hull (Albert D)	11:18	5.7	-	-	Swansea	11:51	7.0	-	-
Ilfracombe	11:36	6.8	-	-	Tees	9:27	4.2	10:08	4.1
King's Lynn	-	-	12:15	4.6	Walton-on-Naze	4:55	3.4	5:15	3.3

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 18C (64F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Linton-on-Ouse, North Yorkshire, 0.32in; highest sunshine: Salcombe, Devon, 12.6hrs.

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[illegible]

ARTS 35-37

Kathryn Harries triumphant in a dazzling Fidelio

EDUCATION 39

Why some parents prefer to teach their children at home

SPORT 41-48

Young squire trains aim on Atlanta

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 43, 44

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 26 1996

Doubts over rates after dull sales data

By Alasdair Murray

THE future direction of interest rates remains uncertain after publication yesterday of new data showing weaker than expected growth in retail sales.

Retail sales volumes rose by just 0.2 per cent in March, according to figures issued by the Office of National Statistics, well below the expected 0.5 per cent.

However, stronger underlying growth in the sales figures hinted at a gradual return of consumer confidence, although it stopped short of signalling the return of the "feel-good" factor.

Geoffrey Dicks, UK economist with NatWest Markets, said: "Consumers may not yet be feeling good, but they are certainly feeling better."

Between January and March, the volume of sales was 0.4 per cent higher than in the previous three months and 2.1 per cent up on the same period of 1995. Growth was especially strong in clothing and footwear and in household goods, supporting other evidence of recovery in the housing sector.

With other statistics, such as CBI industrial data published this week, showing continuing weakness in other areas of the economy, the immediate outlook for interest rates will be dictated by first-quarter GDP figures, due out on Monday. If GDP is below expectations, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may be tempted to seek another quarter-point rate cut when he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on May 8.

☐ Evidence that the US economy remains robust emerged yesterday with data showing sales of existing homes rising 6.9 per cent in March. The strong growth was attributed to a rush to complete purchases before interest rate rises took effect. Year-on-year sales rose by 16 per cent, but analysts say that sales growth will slow in coming months. US new jobless claimants rose slightly for the week to April 20, from 359,000 to 372,000.

Peter Davis, chief executive of the Prudential, has made no secret of his ambition to buy a building society or insurer "at the right price"

Pru heads running to take over the Woolwich

By Robert Miller and Patricia Tehan

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's biggest insurer which manages £82 billion, has emerged as a clear contender to take over the Woolwich Building Society.

Last night sources in both camps unofficially emphasised that any bid talks were at a very early stage and that the Prudential had not yet begun to conduct a "due diligence" search on the Woolwich books. The Woolwich became a prime takeover target after the abrupt departure of its chief executive Peter Robinson earlier this month over allegations of abuses of expenses and other irregularities. After a stormy annual general meeting last week one observer said: "The whole industry is casting its slide rule over the Woolwich."

If the Prudential does make a successful bid for the third largest society, which plans to become a £3 billion stock market company next summer, the 3.5 million Woolwich savers and borrowers could be in line to receive an extra £125 in addition to the already planned average payout of £1,000.

Donald Kirkham, the acting chief executive of the Woolwich, said yesterday that the society had received "around half a dozen" approaches from firms asking if it would be interested in a partnership or closer cooperation. He added: "I cannot rule out anything and I can never say never because it is too long a period," but repeated that the society's firm intention was to float and to remain independent.

The Prudential, which is also understood to have made a takeover approach to Friends Provident, a fellow insurer, said: "We never comment on market rumours." Last October the Prudential announced that it was to apply for a banking licence with a view to starting up the operation later this year.

Peter Davis, the chief executive of the Prudential, has made no secret of his ambition to buy a building society or insurer "at the right price" nor would he object to running two strong brand names in tandem by keeping the well-known and respected Woolwich name under the Pru umbrella. The Prudential can expect strong opposition from rivals in its bid to buy the Woolwich. Those most often mentioned include BAT, the financial services and tobacco group, the Royal Bank of Scotland, National Australia Bank and the Midland.

As well as seeking a new permanent chief executive *The Times* has learned that the Woolwich has started a search for a new finance director. The board appointed the headhunters Whitehead Mann to find a finance director to replace Mike Tuke, 57, who has held the job for 16 months. Mr Tuke has been with the Woolwich since 1962.

Mr Kirkham, the former chief executive of the Woolwich who stepped in temporarily to fill the gap left by Mr Robinson at the beginning of this month, said the normal retirement age for directors is 60. He said: "Mike Tuke wants to retire early at the end of this year, beginning of next." He added that the society hopes the new finance director will overlap with the Mr Tuke for several months before his retirement.

Mr Kirkham said Mr Tuke would have been 59 at the time of flotation, and "we did not want the crew on the flight deck changing not only when racing down the run-way but also in the first two or three years after takeoff."

He said the firm is in the middle of a final selection process, but hopes to dovetail the announcement with that of a new chief executive.

The decision to find a new finance director is believed to have been made as a result of advice from Schroders, the investment bank that is advising on the float.

ICI dips to £223m in first quarter

By Christine Buckley

TOUGH markets for most of the chemicals industry hit ICI in the first quarter of this year, contributing to an 8.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £223 million.

The shares lost 28p to 926p as the market absorbed a trading update at the lower end of expectations and a warning that second-quarter figures would also fall short of last year's.

The company has deferred plans to invest £150 million in new plant at its Wilton complex on Teesside. Last year's second-half slump in industrial chemicals has already triggered a rationalisation programme that will claim thousands of jobs in the next three years. Over the past year, 700 staff (1 per cent of the payroll) have gone and ICI plans to cut 5 to 6 per cent of workers each year for three more years.

Industrial chemicals, the biggest source of ICI's earnings, fell from a trading profit of £143 million in the first quarter of 1995 to £87 million in this year's. Petrochemicals reeled most from margin squeeze. Europe has been hard work for ICI, with volumes off 9 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3819.3	(+1.7)
Yield	3.89%	
FT-SE A All share	1914.27	(+2.02)
Nikkei	22230.10	(-51.85)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5524.28	(-29.62)*
S&P Composite	648.39	(-1.78)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{3}{16}$%*	($5\frac{5}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$89\frac{4}{32}$*	($89\frac{11}{32}$)
Yield	6.85%*	(6.83)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$5\frac{21}{32}$%	($5\frac{21}{32}$%)
Little long gilt future (Jun)	$106\frac{1}{2}$	($106\frac{1}{8}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5130*	(1.5158)
London:		
$	1.5113	(1.5128)
DM	2.3115	(2.3024)
FFr	7.8045	(7.7754)
SFr	1.8687	(1.8656)
Yen	160.97	(161.54)
£ Index	84.3	(84.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5190*	(1.5202)
FFr	5.1615*	(5.1415)
SFr	1.2357*	(1.2307)
Yen	106.45*	(106.55)
$ Index	96.7	(96.6)

Tokyo close Yen 106.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$19.15	($18.95)

GOLD

London close	$394.25	($390.90)

* denotes midday trading price

Watchdog fines NatWest £75,000 for Pep errors

By Robert Miller

THE biggest name in high street banking has incurred the largest fine to be handed down by a City watchdog so far this year.

National Westminster Bank was yesterday fined £75,000, with costs of £45,000, by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the regulator responsible for fund managers.

Imro found NatWest guilty on two charges of breaching rules regarding the bank's tax-free Personal Equity Plan (Pep) business, which has 70,000 customers. NatWest said it had not had to compensate any clients. However, it is understood that the bank may have had to buy extra shares in the market to reconcile its Pep records and book-keeping.

Imro said that for a period of more than three years, from November 1991 to February 1995, NatWest "did not fully reconcile and correct discrepancies revealed by its stock reconciliations" for 14 widely held shares. Further, Imro said that for 11 months in 1994 NatWest failed to carry out stock reconciliations for a further 11 less widely held shares.

On a second charge relating to inadequate stock reconciliations and poor record-keeping, Imro said records in relation to certain shares "were either missing or incomplete".

In July 1993, NatWest discovered the errors and discrepanices and immediately alerted Imro. On a subsequent visit in January 1994 by the watchdog's compliance officers, it was found that NatWest had not sufficiently altered its internal procedures and that too little remedial action had been taken. Imro said yesterday that the errors and rule breaches had not been fully corrected until February 1995.

The level of the fine reflects the watchdog's view that the rule breaches related to a vital part of investor protection.

NatWest said that it had invested money in new technology systems and staff training but declined to say how much. The bank, which emphasised that no investors had been disadvantaged, added: "Whilst we acknowledge Imro's censure, we also confirm the regulator's statement that NatWest had now remedied these deficiencies."

Pennington, page 27

Lloyds TSB to shed 500 jobs in streamlining

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

LLOYDS TSB, the banking group created by the merger of Lloyds and TSB at the end of last year, is to cut 500 jobs as part of a plan to streamline its operations.

The job cuts, which are the first to be announced since the merger, will be made from the two banks' administration centres in Birmingham and Bristol.

The administration centre for the new Lloyds TSB's retail financial services business will be situated at Lloyds' offices in Canons House, Bristol.

TSB's Victoria House in Birmingham will be run down and closed at the end of next year. The two banks employ 2,400 staff at the two sites, 2,200 of them in retail financial services.

Lloyds TSB estimates it will need 1,300 in the new administration centre, and will cut 500 jobs. It will also relocate another 400.

The cuts were condemned by Bifu, the banking union, which has estimated that 10,000 jobs will go as a result of the merger. John Townsend, TSB assistant secretary at Bifu, said: "This is just the start."

A Lloyds TSB spokeswoman said every effort would be made to shed staff through natural wastage, redeployment, retraining and voluntary severance.

The spokeswoman said: "We cannot guarantee that there will be no compulsory redundancies, but we will move heaven and earth to make sure it is as painless as possible."

Peter Ellwood, group deputy chief executive said: "In order to achieve the benefits from a merger, some very hard decisions have to be taken and the location of our main administration centre was clearly going to be one of them."

Sir Evelyn: retained control

Rebuff for Rothschild as second director quits

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

NM ROTHSCHILD, one of the few remaining independent merchant banks in the City, has suffered its second serious defection with the departure of Anthony Fry, one of its highest-flying corporate financiers.

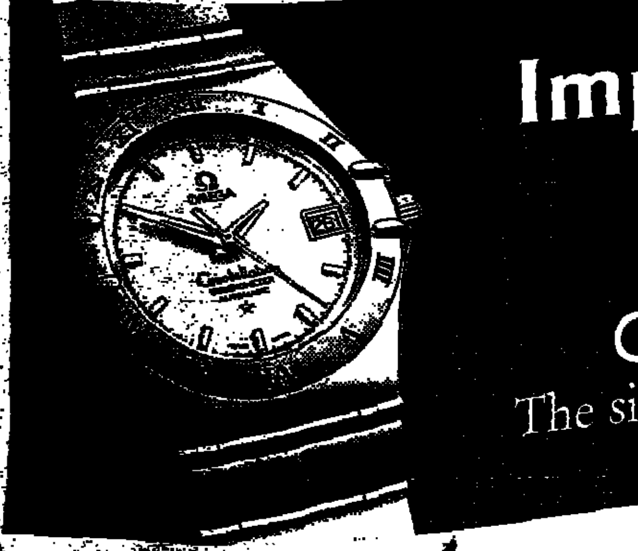
Mr Fry, 40, is senior director on a number of key accounts and had been seen as heir-apparent for the post of head of corporate finance. His clients include British Airways, Pearson, Flextech, Chrysalis and the Telegraph newspaper group.

Mr Fry is to move to BZW, Barclays' investment bank, where he will build up its worldwide corporate finance presence in the media sector, and help to develop its UK corporate finance business.

His departure is bad news for Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of Rothschild, after the loss this week of Michael Phair, who headed up Rothschild's privatisation work in central Europe and other emerging markets. Mr Phair is joining UBS.

The two departures have been seen by outsiders as a further indication of the extent to which younger Rothschild directors feel that the bank does not have a clear strategy. Further departures are expected. Last year, the bank's senior directors held tentative negotiations with NatWest Markets about a possible joint venture. However, although some of Rothschild's most senior directors were in favour of a link, Sir Evelyn was unwilling to lose any of his family control over the business.

Last summer, Smith New Court, the stockbroker in which it held a 26 per cent stake, agreed to a takeover by Merrill Lynch of the US. The deal ended Rothschild's special distribution relationship with SNC and left it without an obvious partner.



Important meetings begin with the minutes

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Rentokil bid tipped to succeed

Rentokil was tipped last night to win the £2.1 billion battle to take control of BET, the business services group, despite a last minute row involving the takeover panel.

BET called on the panel to discount 27 million shares sold by SBC Warburg, Rentokil brokers, to Salomon Brothers last week.

The takeover panel suggested it would not rule against Warburgs.

Shares in Rentokil closed up 2.5p at 360p, while BET shares fell 1p to 203p.

JKX confident

JKX Oil and Gas, the oil exploration group with interests in the former Soviet Union, predicts it will break even in the first quarter of 1996. In its first year as a quoted company, JKX made a pre-tax loss of £2 million.

Halifax deal

The Halifax Building Society yesterday confirmed that it has bought 33 estate agency branches from the Alliance & Leicester for a nominal price probably as low as £1.

Profits fall

Austin Reed, the upmarket clothes retailer, saw pre-tax profits for 1995 fall from £5.8 million to £3.4 million.

It is paying an unchanged total dividend of 6p. Shares rose 5p to 244p.

Anagen better

Anagen, the diagnostics equipment maker, recovered 8p to 55p yesterday after falling 57p to 47p on Wednesday. Pre-tax losses were £1.75 million (£4 million loss), or a 3.8p loss (8.6p loss) per share.

Rhino down

Losses at Rhino Group, the novelty products and computer games company, sank a further £5.94 million to £8.51 million. Losses per share rose to 4.83p (2.24p).

Lucas deal

Lucas, the aerospace and car parts group, has won a $20 million contract in South America to supply starters, alternators and distributors to Volkswagen do Brazil.

BPB stake up

BPB Industries is paying £21.5 million to take full control of Borgardts, the German manufacturer of special gypsum plasters. BPB has held a 20 per cent stake since 1987.

JUSTIN SLEE

Christopher Brown, right, and Christopher Cook, who said rising export orders, including sales to Lockheed Martin of America marked a future growth

Seven more sales speed breakup of BR network

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE breakup of the British Rail passenger network gathered pace yesterday when tenders were invited for a further seven train franchises.

The move brings to 20 the franchises sold, or being prepared for sale, by Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director. This represents about 80 per cent of the BR network.

Mr Salmon invited bidders to qualify for the sale of the ScotRail, CrossCountry, Great Eastern, Merseyrail Electrics, Thameslink, West Anglia, Great Northern and Island Line franchises. The sales are expected to be completed from November onwards.

The remaining five passenger franchises, including the London Euston-Glasgow main line route, will be offered for sale within the next two months. The Government hopes that all 25 will be in private hands by next April.

The seven latest franchises include the first to involve Labour-controlled Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs), which are bitterly opposed to rail privatisation and have held up the sale of urban routes. The sale of the ScotRail franchise has been strongly criticised by Strathclyde PTE, which is responsible for the urban and suburban networks around Glasgow. However, a spokesman for Mr Salmon's Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf) said he was optimistic of being able to "do business" with the Strathclyde executive.

Brian Wilson, Labour's railways spokesman, said the breakup of the railways was now no more than "a race against the electoral clock" as the Government struggled to complete the sell-off before polling day. He said: "For the Tories to continue in this direction is purely a scorched-earth policy, before they are turfed out."

Mr Wilson said the Government faced formidable problems in selling ScotRail. Strathclyde PTE would "continue to fight the outrageous transfer of assets to private operators by all means at its disposal", he said.

ScotRail, which also runs the Anglo-Scottish sleepers to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fort William, Aberdeen and Inverness and is expected to be bid for by a management buyout team led by John Ellis, its managing director.

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is considering a bid for CrossCountry, which operates InterCity services that do not begin or end in London. The franchise has Britain's longest scheduled passenger route, the 702-mile Dundee to Penzance service.

Other likely bidders include Stagecoach, the bus group, which is pursuing every franchise that comes up for sale, and the National Express coach company.

☐ Tramtrack Croydon, a consortium of Bombardier, Eurorail, CentreWest, Sir Robert McAlpine, Amey Construction and the Royal Bank of Scotland, has been selected as preferred bidder to build and operate a 28-mile tram link between Croydon and Wimbledon in south London.

BAT says tobacco lawsuits are costing it £33m a year

BY JON ASHWORTH

BAT Industries, the tobacco to insurance group, has admitted spending more than £33 million a year defending itself against tobacco-related lawsuits. The group, whose brands include John Player, Benson & Hedges, and Silk Cut, faces spiralling legal bills in connection with 174 cases.

Most of the cases are in America, which is awash with class actions from people claiming that tobacco has damaged their health. Philip Morris, the world's biggest cigarette manufacturer, currently faces 125 such lawsuits in America.

Shares in tobacco manufacturers fell sharply after last month's decision by Liggett Group, the fifth-largest US tobacco company, to settle two lawsuits against it out of court. The move broke the tobacco industry's traditional solidarity in defending claims, and seems set to encourage new actions. Liggett is estimated to have spent $10 million in legal fees — equivalent to a year's profit.

The scale of legal costs to BAT emerged at yesterday's annual meeting in London, when directors faced protests from anti-smoking campaigners. Lord Cairns, chairman of BAT, admitted, under questioning by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), that legal costs related to tobacco litigation are running at more than £33 million. ASH claims that tobacco-related litigation will eat into dividends.

Lord Cairns said that BAT expected steady progress in trading in 1996, even if some way short of last year's exceptional 26 per cent growth.

Acquisitions help David Brown to record high

BY FRASER NELSON

ACQUISITIONS helped David Brown, the international engineering supplier, to achieve a record pre-tax profit of £15.3 million (£12.5 million) in the year to February 2.

Sales in industrial gears, the company's main business, soared 63 per cent to £68.7 million, aided by the purchase of four David Brown gear companies which had been left aside when David Brown was bought by the current management in 1990. The acquisition costs were covered by the £15.5 million raised in a rights issue in May.

Operating profits from construction and military vehicles rose by 22 per cent to £8.2 million depite a downturn in military spending.

Industrial pumps delivered the weakest performance of the company's three sectors, with operating profits falling 15 per cent to £2.2 million.

Christopher Cook, joint chief executive, said the downturn came after customers altered orders at a late production stage, leading to overload in production. But he added that the results were only delayed, and next year's order book was at record levels. Mr Cook said that rising export orders, including sales to Lockheed Martin of America, the world's biggest defence group, marked a future growth area.

A final dividend of 5.2p (4.65p) makes a total of 7.6p (5.9p).

BUSINESS ROUND

Three are accused of fraud by Bank

THE Bank of England has charged a group of businessmen operating in Southampton with offences ranging from forgery to fraud. The Bank brought the charges at the City of London Magistrates' Court. The three were charged with specimen offences under the Banking Act and the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act. Peter Lennon was charged with offences under the Banking Act relating to fraudulent inducement to make a deposit and providing false information. He was also charged with forgery. Roger Charlesworth and Paul Hyans were charged with offences relating to fraudulent inducement to make a deposit. Mr Charlesworth was also charged with forgery and with offences related to giving false information. All three were given bail.

Mr Charlesworth and Mr Hyans were, at the time of the offences, directors of a company called Homesafe and also traded as Charlesworth Hyans. The Bank obtained an injunction against the three in 1994, preventing them from continuing in business. The Bank yesterday said that the alleged offences relate to actions by the three in an attempt to raise funding for development of land near Orlando, Florida.

Ramco profit falls 53%

HIGH hopes for profits from a former communist oilfield tempered the share price of Ramco Energy, the Scottish oil group, as preliminary results showed a 53 per cent dip in pre-tax profits to £754,000 in the year to December 31. The company said lower contributions from Penzoil dragged down an otherwise healthy trading period. It confirmed that it is in talks to jointly develop a project in Azerbaijan, tipped to have 2 million barrels of oil left untapped by the Soviet Union. The single final dividend stays at 1p. The shares ended 10p lower at 615p.

Meridien on the menu

ACCOR, the French hotel group, is understood to have obtained potential financial backing to fund a bid for Granada's Meridien hotel chain. Accor is thought to be interested in examining all parts of Meridien, which Granada inherited in its takeover of Forte. Exceptional gains of Fr643 million propped up Accor's profits, for 30 per cent rise in last year's net attributable profit to Fr923 million. Had it not been for the sale of Efthor, a caterer, to Compass, net profits would have fallen 61 per cent. **Pennington, page 27**

Unipart rises to £32m

AN increase in export sales and continuing cost reductions helped Unipart Group, part of Europe's leading independent supplier of automotive parts and accessories, lift pre-tax profits to £32.6 million (£28.9 million) in the year to December 31. The company, 20 per cent owned by Rover and 46 per cent by its employees and managers, saw sales grow to £864 million (£774 million). Expansion was boosted by a number of new contracts with leading companies in the automotive and IT sectors.

Water bid under fire

WATER customer service groups are preparing their attack over plans by Severn Trent to take over South West Water. In evidence to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Ofwat's regional customer service group for the Severn Trent area will complain that Severn Trent will have to pay a premium for South West and possibly curb capital investment programmes. They will also express fears that their prices could rise, with the current average bill for South West at £329, against Severn Trent's £201.

Black workers 'earn less'

BLACK workers' pay is on average 5 per cent less than that of white workers, a new analysis of pay rates reports today. Black workers are also more likely to be in lower-paying jobs and though unemployment is falling, unemployment among black people is falling much less quickly than for white people. The TUC report uses information held on government computers to show a clear pay differential between black and white workers — and suggests a national minimum wage is the best way of closing the gap.

Linton Park slides

ADVERSE climatic conditions took a toll on full-year profits at Linton Park, whose activities span tea, coffee and citrus production to edible nuts and cold storage. Reduced profits from the company's agricultural interests and higher interest costs saw pre-tax profits slip to £9.77 million in the year to December 31, down from £12.8 million last time, in spite of turnover ahead to £174.8 million (£164.9 million). A maintained final foreign income dividend of 12.5p gives a total of 18.75p (17.5p) for the year, from earnings of 37.1p (39.0p) a share.

Rugby to build plant

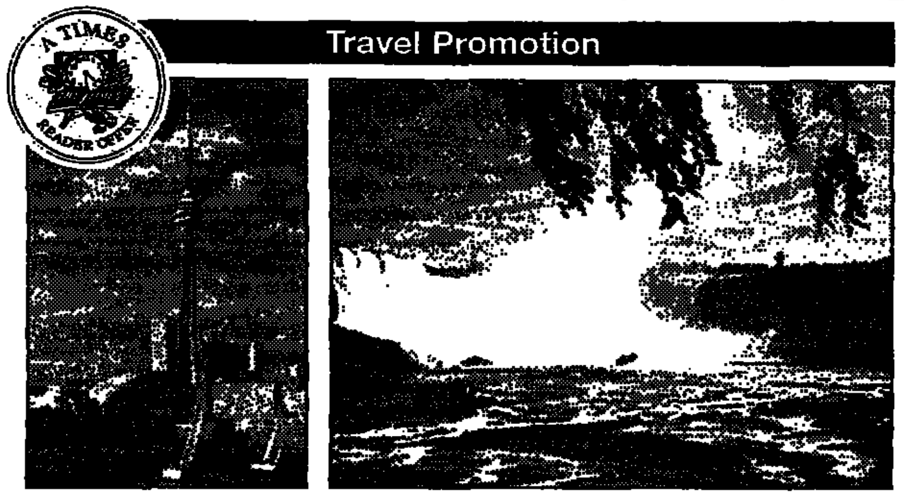
RUGBY CEMENT is to invest more than £100 million in a new cement plant in Rugby, Warwickshire. It is Rugby Cement's largest ever investment and the first new plant of this size in the UK for more than a decade. The plant replaces an existing works but will have increased capacity, producing up to 1.35 million tonnes of cement a year, and will have an improved environmental performance. Amec Construction will carry out the early engineering design of the plant and is the preferred contractor for the project.

SE awaits approval

THE board of the Stock Exchange is to wait for regulatory approval for its proposals for a new order-driven electronic trading system before issuing details in June. The exchange's announcement yesterday came in response to criticism that its second phase of consultation on an order-driven system had been delayed. It had originally said that it hoped to start the second phase next month. The June consultation document will describe in detail the proposed new system, including the regulatory issues and tax issues agreed with the Treasury.

A TIMES READER OFFER

Travel Promotion



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Police appeal for help from former staff at Rom Data

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE senior police officer heading the Serious Fraud Office investigation into Rom Data, the West Country computer firm that crashed after receiving £850,000 of taxpayers money, has issued a nationwide appeal for former employees to contact the Devon and Cornwall fraud squad.

Detective Inspector Steven Harrison, who heads the joint SFO inquiry, said yesterday that nearly 400 former Rom Data staff had been interviewed or sent questionnaires. Senior "influential" staff have also given statements.

Mr Harrison said: "We believe there are possibly up to another 100 former Rom Data employees who may be able to help us. We would like them to contact our Truro incident room before we complete the first part of our investigation."

Oppenheim: secret report

In January, police interviewed John Dawson, a former Rom Data director, and his wife Elizabeth, at their Cork home. Mr Dawson, a former Conservative city councillor in Bath, has a history of bad debts in Britain and the Caribbean. He left the UK in the early 1980s after the collapse of John Dawson Motor (Holdings), with personal and business debts of nearly £2 million.

The SFO investigation is looking at other companies in the South West that received government grants. A secret DTI report outlines how hundreds of companies received tens of millions of pounds in assistance but subsequently collapsed. Phillip Oppenheim, Trade Minister, refuses to publish the report in spite of repeated requests from David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport.

Australian SE may float itself

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

IN WHAT looks likely to cause a massive headache for Australia's regulation experts, the Australian stock exchange is looking at the possibility of floating itself on its own market.

The radical proposals, which are to be considered by an internal stock exchange task force in Sydney next week, come amid a growing feeling among exchange members that its existing mutual status is both outdated and inappropriate.

At present, the exchange is owned by 520 stockbroking firms and all revenue earned from company listings is channelled straight back into exchange development. Under a new corporatised structure, however, owners of the exchange would be entitled to receive regular dividends. Last year, the exchange earned A$12 million on the back of assets of A$136 million.

Maurice Newman, the stock exchange chairman, who has long been in favour of demutualising the exchange, says that a float has received considerable interest from the exchange's members.

A spokesman for the exchange said yesterday: "The mutual status of the ASX has served it well but it has gone as far as it can. With 90 per cent of trade going through ten big corporate members, many of whom are ultimately owned offshore, it is anachronistic to talk about single member firms." He said that future ownership of the exchange could include private investors, institutions and even government entities.

Anecdotal evidence certainly seems to suggest a groundswell of support, with one private client broker saying: "A float would allow independent experts to apply a fair value to the stock exchange and deliver a proper return to the members that have built up the exchange." Another market player adds simply: "On the basis of the growth in market activity which the exchange has experienced over the past few years, you'd have to say that it would seem to be a bloody good investment."

A rather large question mark remains, however, over just how a listed stock exchange could be regulated. The exchange spokesman points out: "We regulate the market, and a float would present a fundamental problem of who regulates the regulator. You can't have a situation where you are regulating your own company. It just wouldn't make sense."

The task force is expected to report formally to the stock exchange board in June, with a float, if approved, by at least 75 per cent of the stock exchange's membership, likely to take place in 1997.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.02	1.86
Austria Sch	17.24	15.74
Belgium Fr	50.41	48.11
Canada $	2.173	2.013
Cyprus Cyp£	0.755	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.51	8.71
Finland Mkk	7.87	7.22
France Fr	8.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.48	2.25
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.35	11.35
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1900	4.5400
Italy Lira	2461.00	2306.00
Japan Yen	178.30	160.90
Malta	0.595	0.548
Netherlds Gld	2.734	2.504
New Zealand $	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr	10.60	9.70
Portugal Esc	247.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	7.09	6.23
Spain Pta	198.50	185.50
Sweden Kr	10.83	10.03
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	116846	106848
USA $	1.610	1.480

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الأصل

☐ Sell-offs ignore benefits of integration ☐ Public humiliation the best penalty ☐ Five-star French fancy

Rattling down convergent tracks

☐ IN 15 years of state sell-offs, one unchanging rule has been *that you never get what you pay* for. This is because a minister's writ never extends as far as the promises in the prospectus claim, a fact that should be kept in mind by the one and a half million people who have expressed an interest in Railtrack.

Utility services are goods like any other, subject to the usual laws of economics. Demand calls forth supply. If the risk/reward ratio is inadequate then government, or philanthropists, will have to step in.

When our Victorian forefathers found their streets choked with sewage, their water polluted and an embarrassment of ailing citizens, they built sewers and aqueducts. When science offered the chance to light those streets with gas, and then electricity, companies and concerned citizens stepped in.

And what was the common feature among successful solutions? Vertical integration. Monopoly utilities bought the coal, produced the gas or electricity, and distributed it to the consumers they billed. Nationalisation increased the integration through consolidation.

In successive privatisations, the Government has sought to counter this fact of nature. In lieu of tough regulation, it has progressively introduced artificial competition. But what market *forces assemble, politicians* cannot always keep asunder.

British Gas, privatised as a monopoly, bound like Gulliver by regulation, writhes helplessly as pygmy rivals grow fat. BT talks to Mercury, in an effort to re-connect the overseas links stripped from it at privatisation, to counter the *strictures on its* business in Britain.

Hanson seeks to re-assemble vertical monopolies in electricity, as the Government steps in to block bids by National Power and PowerGen to do the same. And what is the consequence? Share prices rise and fall on a *regulator's whim, or a minister's*. Consistency flies out of the window. Utility shares have become about as predictable as the National Lottery.

What credence, then, can we place in the prospectus for Railtrack? Track, signals and trains are a single system. Isambard Kingdom Brunel did not build the Great Western Railway only to offer track to the highest bidder. Only a fool, a *management consultant* or a minister could imagine that the structure of Britain's railway will remain unchallenged by market forces after privatisation.

On that basis, the sooner the bids start to arrive the better. But if electricity is any guide it is the train operating companies, not *Railtrack itself, that will* be allowed to lead the return to common sense.

Put the bankers in the stocks

☐ THIS column has been *afforded a glimpse of Michael Howard's* tough new penal code. Traffic offences will in future attract fines of a whole 20p, rising to a full pound if someone is killed. Armed robbers will be jailed overnight; murderers can expect to miss several episodes of *Eastenders* while banged up.

Fantasy? Then explain, if you *can, the logic of fining* National Westminster, which made £1.7 billion profit last year, a full £75,000 for failing to keep proper track of its customers' assets, a breach of the rules that continued for more than a year after it was brought to the attention of the regulator.

We try not to expect too much of the clearing banks, but as a bare minimum we ask them to keep track of how much of our money they have — it makes for easier housekeeping and fewer sleepless nights that way. The point is not that the NatWest's failings were largely technical and did not put accountholders' money at risk. It is that the punishment for the offences is grotesquely inadequate.

A hit of £75,000 would probably have finished off the average small independent financial adviser. It is a nonsense to impose it on a vast clearer — it took the bank 22 minutes last year to earn that amount. The trick is to ensure that the damage for the mighty NatWest is equal to that for the financially crippled small adviser. Mistakes happen, and no one should be bankrupted for a single fault, but a £75,000 fine is at the top end of those imposed recently by Imro and was intended to emphasise the severity of the case.

Public thrashing of the respon*sible employees and relevant* director, although not without some appeal as a spectacle, is probably not on. But bad publicity is almost as effective. The building society ombudsman already has the power to require miscreants to place full-page advertisments in the national press admitting their sins. Clearing banks should be required to do the same, and not just tucked away on the financial pages of the broadsheet heavies but right there in the tabloids, where the maximum number of potential accountholders can see them. The principle can be extended. Forget the fines; try a dose of public humiliation.

Booking in for Méridien

☐ ACCOR was in town yesterday to lay down a firm marker of interest for the posh hotels being sold by Granada. This French outfit is a curious beast, combining hotels, luncheon *vouchers* and a stake in the British caterer Compass, all topped with £2 billion of debt. It lost out to Forte for the *Méridien* chain two years ago in spite of heavy financial backing. This time might turn out even trickier.

Granada is putting out its prospectus next month, and Sir Rocco Forte has his own backers. The price is raised by inclusion of some Forte hotels. The bits that the French want are worth £700 million, assuming Granada will split the package. The latter has suggested that the taxman might favour this, but the market has doubts. Much Gallic *amour propre* is tied up in a rematch.

Dark thoughts

☐ THE DAY after the latest electric shock, and we are all casting around for reasons. Here is one, perhaps conspiracy theory, perhaps genuine. The generators did not endear themselves to the Government during the bloody and indecisive shambles that was the winding-down of the British coal industry. National Power and PowerGen initially preferred to take cheaper foreign imports.

A deal was struck which involved the regional companies taking coal-backed contracts, but only after fractious interchanges between the DTI and the generators. Revenge, best eaten cold, is even tastier laced with political expediency. On this basis the next course, now National Power has had its defences stripped away, is the American purchase of the biggest generator.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Power shift: John Baker, right, the chairman of National Power, replaced Bernard Taylor as chairman of Medeva at the pharmaceutical company's annual general meeting yesterday

Etam warning follows slump

By Clare Stewart

ETAM, the high-street fashion retailer, continues to struggle as profits slumped and the outlook for 1996 looks bleak. After three profit warnings and a boardroom clear-out in 1995, pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 plummeted to £152,000 (£10.6 million). Sales at the group, which includes the Snob and Tammy Girl outlets, have not improved and the group is giving warning that first-half operating losses are set to rise.

Etam says it is looking to rebuild margins but the full effect *is not* expected to be seen in the balance sheet until 1997. It is paying a final dividend of 0.75p (5.75p), making a total for the year of 1.25p (7.7p). The shares closed 1p lower at 164p.

Tempus, page 28

Trinity Holdings' shares hit

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Trinity Holdings, the specialist vehicle maker, tumbled 19p to 402p as the company cautioned about a slowdown in the first half of its new financial year. The warning that profits would be skewed to the second half of *1996-97* came as the fire-engine-to-refuse collector company announced a 22 per cent increase in profits to £16 million for the year ending January 1996. The total dividend rises 15 per cent to 8.2p. A final of 5.6p is payable on July 31. Vanni Treves, the chairman, said slower sales in Malaysia and restructuring in its airport vehicle division, after the acquisition of two companies, *would dampen profits growth in the* first half. But he was more bullish about prospects for the year as a whole, pointing to a record order book.

Ibstock aims high with £160m deal for Redland Bricks

By Clare Stewart

IBSTOCK, the buildings materials group, is set to become the biggest brickmaker in the United Kingdom after agreeing to buy Redland Bricks for £160 million. The move will give Ibstock around 35 per cent of the market, putting it ahead of Hanson, the current market leader.

Ibstock is funding the deal with a rights issue that will raise £100 million via a two for three issue, with shares priced at 55p. The deal still has a significant hurdle to overcome *in satisfying the Office of Fair* Trading on competition grounds. The company's cautious attitude to this is reflected in the structure of the rights issue, allowing shareholders money to be repaid if the acquisition is blocked.

Ian Maclellan, chief executive, said: "We want to be able to outgun Hanson." He called it an "exciting and challenging deal". *The opportunity to* acquire Redland Brick comes in the wake of Redland's restructuring. It is Ibstock's second *major acquisition* — last year it bought Tarmac's brick businesses for £71 million.

Redland Bricks showed an operating profit of £8.9 million last year. The deal will enhance Ibstock's geographical coverage of the market.

Mr Maclellan said that there were also opportunities to make substantial cost savings and rationalise to improve efficiency, which may mean closure of some older brick factories over time and job losses. No specific plans will be outlined until the OFT makes its attitude clear.

The Tarmac acquisition last year helped to lift Ibstock's pre-tax profits by 83 per cent, *to £26.1 million, on turnover* ahead 19 per cent to £250 million. Earnings per share rose by 80 per cent, to 6.67p, and the total dividend for the year is 2p.

The current financial year has made a less impressive start. Ibstock says that demand for building products is slower. Its US business was also hard-hit by bad weather, while the Forest Products division, which saw profits double last year, is being *squeezed* by the falling price of wood pulp.

These factors will hit first-half profits but the group is "cautiously optimistic" that demand for bricks is set to improve. Shares in Ibstock closed up 11½p at 85½.

Kingfisher chief nears £1m a year

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, nearly rejoined the *£1 million-a-year club* last year with a 5 per cent jump in total pay to £999,000 in the year to February 3.

Sir Geoffrey and Jim Hodkinson, chief executive of B&Q, Kingfisher's DIY chain, have moved from three-year contracts to two-year *contracts*.

According to the annual accounts, the rise in Sir Geoffrey's total pay was mainly due to £226,000 paid under the group's long-term bonus scheme. Last year, he waived his right to £178,306. Kingfisher recently announced a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £312 million, in spite of a 33 per cent drop in profits from B&Q.

Sir Geoffrey's pay in the previous year was £949,000, down from £1.31 million in the year to January 3, 1994.

DFS beats housing gloom with 16% rise

By Sarah Bagnall

DFS, the cash-rich furniture group, shrugged off the ill effects of a lacklustre housing market and abysmal weather with a 16 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £15.1 million in the six months to January 27.

Sir Graham Kirkham, founder and executive chairman, said the company "continues to perform exceptionally well, again achieving record profits in a difficult trading environment". Sales from the group's 32 stores rose 19.1 per cent to £87.7 million; like-for-like sales advanced 8.6 per cent.

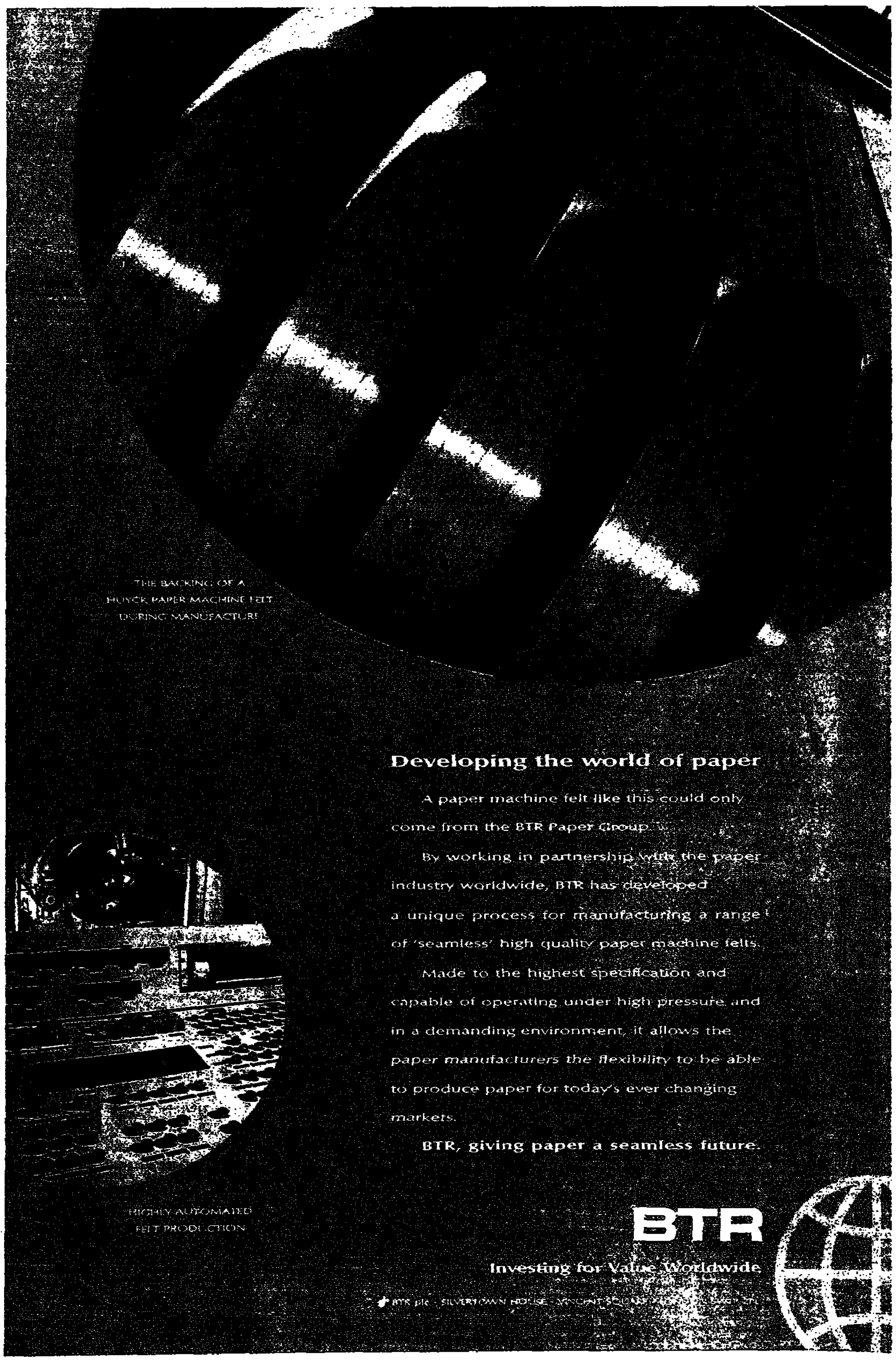
Sir Graham said: "I am particularly pleased that we *have been able to maintain* such good progress, despite little improvement in the housing market and in the face of *the worst* retailing weather conditions for many years."

Since the half year, two new stores have been opened. During the rest of the year, the group plans to open a further four, including its first stores in London and the South East. Sir Graham said: "The factor that dictates our performance is the volume of people. The number of chimney pots in the South East is far greater than anywhere else and there are more of the type of people who shop in our stores." He sees potential for more than 12 stores in the region, and intends to open the first seven as quickly as possible.

Sir Graham is upbeat about prospects. "I look forward to reporting *continuing growth* and success," he said.

The group ended the first half with cash balances of £23 million, after capital expenditure of £4.9 million and last November's special dividend of £10.4 million.

The dividend was lifted 17 per cent to 3.1p and is payable on June 20 out of earnings of 9.59p a share, up from 8.27p last time. The shares fell 3p to 510p.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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators smarting after power bid vetoes

CITY speculators were trying desperately to repair the damage done to their profit and loss accounts caused by the Government's decision to block the two power bids earlier this week.

One late running story suggested that Southern Company, the US utility, is poised to launch is proposed bid for National Power and will stage a dawn raid at the start of business this morning. It is a move that would help the speculators out of a hole, but smacked more of wishful thinking. The power generators continued to lose ground, with **National Power** down another 8p at 556p, after briefly touching 534p, and **PowerGen** 17p off at 555p.

Only last week, there was talk that Southern Company was prepared to bid upwards of 700p a share for National Power, valuing the company at more than £8 billion. But that was before the Government stepped in to block its bid for **Southern Electric**, up 11p at 835p, and PowerGen's offer for **Midlands Electricity**, 17p dearer at 388p.

Elsewhere, **National Grid** eased 3½p to 198p amid claims that Hanson may be looking to dispose of its 12 per cent stake which it acquired along with Eastern Group. It is estimated the sale could raise up to £500 million.

Brokers say that prices among the power generators are likely to remain volatile in the short term, but suggest that falls among the distributors have been overdone. Among the other regional electricty companies, gains were recorded in **East Midlands**, 11p to 629p, **London**, 15p to 822p, **Seeboard**, 12p to 550p, and **Yorkshire**, 8p stronger to 834p.

The rest of the equity market showed signs of halting the slide of the past few days with the help of the latest retail sales numbers, which offered hope that there may still be scope for another cut in interest rates. It enabled the FT-SE 100 index to claw back a near 15-point deficit, to finish 1.7 points up on the day at 3,819.3. Turnover was 862 million shares. This was in spite of another sharp fall for the Dow Jones average in early trading on Wall Street.

A first-quarter setback accompanied by a profits warning left **ICI** nursing a fall of 24p at 926p. Pre-tax profits were down almost 10 per cent at £223 million, reflecting a slowdown in industrial chemicals where volumes in Europe, alone, fell by 9 per cent. Hopes that the group would use its spare cash to pay a special dividend or initiate a share buy-back were dashed.

Ibstock, the brickmaker, jumped 11½p to 85p after announcing plans to buy Redland's brick-making operation for £155 million. To help to fund the deal Ibstock is proposing a two-for-three rights issue to raise £100 million. The full-year figures from Ibstock showed pre-tax profits climbing 83 per cent to £26.1 million, accompanied by a rise of one-third in the payout to 2p.

The best gain on the day was seen in **Chiroscience**, up 117½p at 400p, after the company gave a briefing to brokers. The company told them it had been developing a cancer treatment which it regarded as superior to that of its rivals, such as British Biotechnology's Marimastat. **British Biotech** added a further 48p at £28.08.

Laporte was also a firm market, climbing 27p to 761p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, met the company earlier this week and reckons the shares are attractive.

There was further speculative buying of **Thorn EMI**, with the price adding another 28p at £18.63 as bid talk persisted. Heavy turnover was again recorded in Ladbroke, the takeover favourite, with 16 million shares traded. The price eased 2½p to 203p.

First-time dealings in **Millenium & Copthorne Hotels** got off to a promising start following a placing at 278p. In early trading the shares touched 329p before ending the session at their best of the day with a rise of 54p at 332p.

Phytopharm also made an encouraging debut following a placing at 175p. At their best the shares touched 185p before ending 3p dearer at 178p.

Rentokil hardened 2½p to 360p as the odds on it winning control of BET continued to shorten. Despite the backing of a number of powerful institutions, brokers take the view that Rentokil's £2.1 billion offer will be accepted by most shareholders. **BET** closed 1p lighter at 203p.

Wickes, the DIY and builders' supplies retailer, fell 9p to 130p after isuing a profits warning. Harry Sweetbaum, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that first-half profits would fall significantly short of last year's level following bad weather in the first quarter. Business was also being hit by the lack of improvement in the housing market.

Austin Reed firmed 5p to 244p despite the setback for profits last year, which had been widely anticipated. Colin Evans, chief executive, said sales of menswear had risen 8 per cent during the first quarter of the current year.

Elsewhere on the high street, full-year figures from **Etam** were every bit as bad as feared, with pre-tax profits plunging from £10.67 million to £152,000. The dividend was also slashed. The shares slipped 1p to 164p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices recovered from a hesitant start with the help of support from overseas investors. Demand was focused at the shorter end of the market, prompting a steepening of the yield curve.

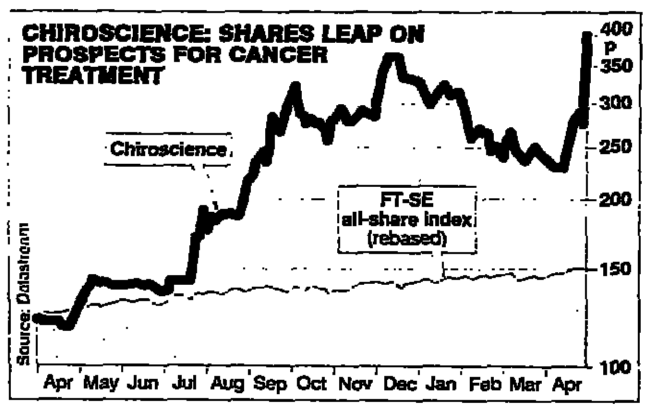
In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt touched £$106\frac{21}{32}$ before ending the session £⅜ higher at £106½ as the total number of contracts completed reached 56,000.

In longs treasury 8 per cent 2015 could only manage a gain of £$\frac{3}{16}$ at £97⅞, while at the shorter end treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £⅜ better at £$102\frac{9}{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: The stronger dollar and a desire for fast growth prompted selling of multinationals and an interest in smaller companies on Wall Street. By midday the pressure on the Dow Jones industrial average saw it 29.62 points lower at 5,524.28.

Wickes shares fell 9p after a profits warning

Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has moved its recommendation on Allied Domecq from a "sell" to a "hold". It says a further deterioration in profitability will be needed before the much talked of break-up is undertaken. Kleinwort says that without the benefit of a bid the break-up value would between 650p and 700p a share.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5524.28 (-29.62)
S&P Composite	648.39 (-1.78)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	22230.10 (-51.95)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10753.38 (-145.31)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	551.33 (-2.55)

Sydney:

AO	Closed

Frankfurt:

DAX	2532.41 (-5.85)

Singapore:

Straits	2384.75 (+3.57)

Brussels:

General	9111.80 (+15.83)

Paris:

CAC-40	2116.35 (-5.75)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	791.70 (-1.90)

London:

FT 30	2854.4 (+2.5)
FT 100	3819.3 (+1.7)
FT-SE Mid 250	4553.3 (+8.6)
FT-SE-A 350	1932.4 (+1.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1684.54 (+0.83)
FT A All-Share	1914.27 (+2.02)
FT Non Financials	2047.15 (+1.83)
FT Fixed Interest	112.36 (+0.10)
FT Govt Secs	92.73 (+0.06)
Bargains	34683
SEAQ Volume	881.6m
USM (Datastrm)	213.61 (+1.61)
US$	1.5120 (-0.0008)
German Mark	2.3111 (+0.0089)
Exchange Index	84.3 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2084
£:SDR	1.0464
RPI	151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.9 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Active Imaging	131	- 2
Advent VCT	95	...
British Smaller Co's	95	...
Cambridge Wtr NV	290	- 13
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Cardcast (85)	83	- 2
Cliveden (73)	86	+ 1
Dicom Group (270)	330	...
Easynet Group (100)	101	+ 1
FI Group (235)	334	+ 20
Garnmore VCT	96	...
Guinness Flight VCT	95	...
Hill Sml UK Emg Cos	97	...
Hurlingham Props	70	...
ILP Group (75)	97	- 3
Millenium & Cop	332	...
Orange (205)	230½	+ 1½
Pacific Horizon Wts	17	...
Pennine AIM VCT	95	...
Phytopharm	178	...
Quester VCT	95	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	35	...
Rebus	105	- 1
Romtec	76	+ 3
Silver Shield (3)	3¼	...
Taverners Trust Uts	517	- 1
Templeton C&E Euro	26	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Barratt Dev n/p (200)	70	- 1
Bemrose n/p (325)	65	...
Benson Group n/p (40)	1½	...
Cap Reg 675% ULS n/p	5	...
Estates & Gen n/p (60)	8	...
Flare n/p (150)	8	...
Guinness Peat n/p (30)	6½	...
Indl Control n/p (90)	23	+ 2
Tepnel Life n/p (40)	25	+ 1
Tottenham Hot n/p	40	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Frost Group	144p (-17p)
Racal Elect	240p (-12p)
Cortecs	399p (-11p)

FALLS:

Filtronic Com	395p (-28p)
ICI	926p (-25p)
Br Airways	540p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Room at the top

HAVING amassed a huge mound of bricks, Ibstock was dancing on the top of the pile yesterday, claiming that it was bigger than anyone and could *now* outgun Hanson. Fortunately for Ibstock, the share market paid no attention to the boast. Had anyone believed that the company was about to lob a few bricks through Hanson's windows, investors would have fled in panic. Recovery in brick prices has been a painstaking process and major producers voluntarily shut down kilns last winter in a sluggish housebuilding market.

Ibstock has no intention of picking a fight with Hanson. On the contrary, the City is assuming that future relations between the two companies, which together will control some 70 per cent of the UK market, could be quite cosy.

In a business dogged by high fixed costs, producers need to run plant at high rates of utilisation. After a shakeout of administration and sales staff, Ibstock will spend money fine-tuning production, closing a few kilns while upgrading others to tweak up its margins. With such large market shares, a duopoly of Hanson and Ibstock will find it easy to tailor production to market demand. In some areas, Ibstock could control almost half the brick market.

The share market wants to believe that the enlarged Ibstock will not arouse the concern of the Office of Fair Trading. Ibstock's rights issue is structured to allow the money to be repaid, but the company knows the OFT's mind well, having consulted the regulator over the purchase of the Tarmac bricks business last year. Ibstock may have to shed a few more kilns, but that would not spoil its victory.

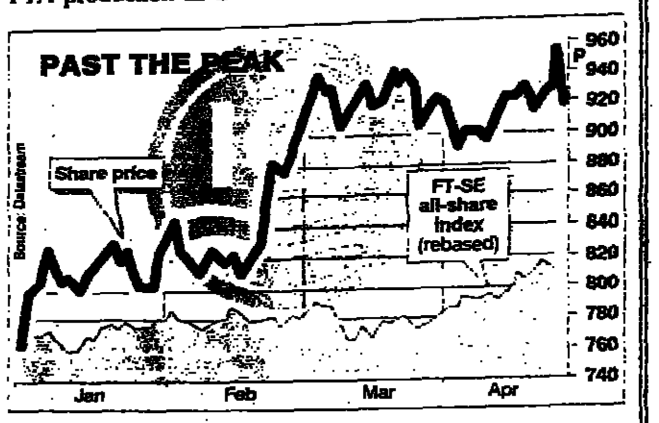
ICI

SUCH a head of steam was built up over share buybacks on Wednesday that ICI shares had only one way to go on yesterday's quarterly figures. The chemical company did not oblige investors expecting a dollop of extra cash from the company and the share price reversed all of the previous day's gains.

Of more importance was the news that the company expects the second quarter to continue the downward trend of the first three months, during which ICI's industrial chemicals business suffered a sharp fall in volumes. Most of the bad news came from Europe, where volumes fell 9 per cent in the first quarter, explaining the lag in reducing inventories.

ICI confidently predicts a 2 per cent growth in its volumes worldwide in the current year compared with last year's solid 3 per cent. However, the setback in the first quarter and slow advance in the second suggests a brisk pace will be needed in the rest of the year.

It is therefore scarcely surprising that ICI is holding back a £150 million investment in expanding PTA production in the UK. ICI has invested heavily in the Far East, where production of the chemical, used to make polyester fibre, is widely reckoned to be in surplus and manufacturers will struggle to make money. ICI has locked in a buyer for production at its second plant in Taiwan, but in the short term profits in this business could be squeezed.



Trinity Holdings

SPECIALIST vehicle-maker Trinity Holdings rode a boom in bus building to record profits last year. Although that market has peaked, Trinity is successfully building alternative businesses that will keep the company on the growth path.

Trinity shares took a tumble yesterday, after the company's cautious words about the outlook for the first half. But the problems outlined yesterday appear short-term. The integration of the new airport businesses will result in a charge this year but all three are profitable and the restructuring will place Trinity in a strong position in a growing market.

Trinity is also continuing to face teething problems with its Malaysian bus-building business. In the immediate future it will generate lower margins than the mature operations in the UK. But a steady penetration of the Malaysian market will enable Trinity to take advantages of the growing opportunities elsewhere in the region. The shares are not cheap, sitting on a forward price/earnings ratio of almost 16 times. But Trinity deserves its premium rating and the shares should continue their journey upwards.

Etam

EXPERIENCED retailers know that all fashions come back to haunt us, evidenced by the recycled 1970s gear that fills the shops today. Unfortunately, for Etam, there just is not enough time to wait for ra-ra skirts and other 1980s ephemera to come back into fashion.

Etam is doing its level best to reinvent itself, widening its market to include an older female customer prepared to pay a higher price. The shops used to rely on discounting to shift short lines of cheap fashionable stuff that would barely last a season. In the 1980s, retailers could almost dip their hands in customers' pockets to relieve them of surplus cash but consumers today are less malleable.

Yesterday's figures gave little evidence that Etam has found its way. A strategy based on less discounting has left it with more unsold stock and losses in the first half will increase. Having widened its target market, Etam is competing head-on with Next and Dorothy Perkins, two retailers that are cutting a swathe down the high street and even posing a challenge to Marks & Spencer. Fashion retailing is becoming a winner takes all business with retailers adopting price positions and then fitting the clothes to the price. In such a game, even the successful find it difficult to make money. Etam has its work cut out to find a niche in this market and even bidders may be wary.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	1026-1025	Jul	1061-1059
Jul	1053-1052	Sep	unq
Sep	1077-1076	Dec	-
Dec	1037-1036	Mar	-
Mar	1036-1034		
May	1049-1047		Volume: 11663

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1995-1990	Jan	1973-1971
Jul	2012-2010	Mar	1953-1952
Sep	1995-1993	May	1935-1900
Nov	1989-1988		Volume: 6748

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	325.0-23.6
Spot: 386.0		May	325.0-23.6
Aug	364.5-63.5	Aug	326.5-25.1
Oct	340.5-39.5	Oct	316.5-15.1
Dec	333.0-31.5		Volume: 1465

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 24

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	102.66	136.07	109.06
(+/-)	-8.93	-11.22	+2.84
Eng/Wales:	102.66	175.10	110.12
(+/-)	-8.93	-1.44	+3.68
(%)	+30.0	-1.0	+47.0
Scotland:	unq	141.55	103.53
(+/-)	-	-3.99	-1.29
(%)		-15.0	+82.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.50	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (Jun)	20.00	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (Jul)	19.15	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	22.40	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.95	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 228 (n/c)	O: 230 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	179 (-5)	181 (-5)
Non EEC 1H My	177 (-3)	179 (-3)
Non EEC 1H Jn	170 (-1)	172 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	114 (n/c)	116 (n/c)
Naphtha	197 (+1)	199 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	172.75-73.00	Aug	165.25-65.50
Jun	168.50-68.75	Sep	165.00-65.50
Jul	166.00-66.25		Vol: 8774

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	19.98-20.00	Sep	17.93 BID
Jul	19.12-19.14	Oct	17.64-17.75
Aug	18.55 SLR		Vol: 43097

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	131.90	May	116.00
Jul	134.15	Sep	112.50
Sep	118.25	Nov	114.25
Nov	120.05	Jan	116.50
Jan	122.05	Mar	118.50
Volume: 806		Volume: 23	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
May	161.0	165.0
Jun	unq	225.0
Nov	-	105.0
		Volume: 13

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 99.50-100.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1458	1455	1465
May 96	1400	1370	1399
Jun 96	1305	1290	1302
Jul 96	1275	1260	1280

Vol: 164 lots Open Interest: 4937

Index 1462 +7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2721.0-2723.0	2624.0-2625.0	1634275
Lead ($/tonne)	817.00-817.50	809.50-810.00	141700
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1046.0-1046.5	1071.0-1072.0	377525
Tin ($/tonne)	6560.0-6565.0	6580.0-6582.0	27745
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1579.0-1579.5	1613.0-1613.5	98875
Nickel ($/tonne)	8043.0-8044.0	8140.0-8145.0	48018

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Alld Dom	500	27	38	42½	14½	20½	28
(*517)	550	9	16½	21½	48	51½	58
Argyll	300	33½	37	41½	5	9	12
(*329½)	330	13	19½	25	18	22	26
ASDA	110	7	10	12½	4	6½	7½
(*112½)	120	3½	6	8	9½	11½	13
Boots	600	49	57½	61½	8	14	19½
(*641)	650	17½	29	38	31	37	42½
Br Airways	500	47	54½	61½	7½	13	17
(*539½)	550	15½	26	34	29	35½	39½
BP	550	48	57	64½	6½	11½	14½
(*592)	600	18½	27½	36	25	31	35½
Br Steel	180	19	21½	24	5	7½	10
(*196½)	200	6½	10	14	15	17½	20½
C & W	500	40	51½	60½	13	20½	26½
(*528)	550	15½	27½	36	39	47	51½
CU	550	47	54½	61½	8½	16½	19
(*583)	600	18½	27	35½	28½	41	43
ICI	900	56½	70	88½	17	30½	38
(*927½)	950	28½	43½	61½	39	55	62
Kingfishr	550	57½	69	80½	6	12½	17
(*595½)	600	24½	38	53½	23½	31	36½
Land Sec	650	28½	38	43	14½	19½	24
(*671½)	700	4½	15	20	48	50½	53½
M & S	420	33½	39½	45½	4	9	12
(*450)	460	8½	17	24	22½	27½	30½
Nat West	600	41½	50½	60	14	20½	26½
(*619)	650	17	25	36½	40½	53	55
Sainsbury	330	29	33½	37	4½	8	11½
(*356½)	360	9½	16½	21½	18½	22	25½
Shell	850	37	50	59	14	23½	27½
(*864)	900	12½	23½	33½	40	49½	53
SmKl Bch	687	36	51	—	20½	31	—
(*696)	736	15½	29½	—	50	59	—
Storehse	330	29	36½	—	6½	11	—
(*351½)	360	11	20	—	20	34½	—
Trafalgar	50	1	1	—	0½	0½	—
(*51)	60	0	0	—	10	10	—
Unilever	1200	57	77	90	16	24	29½
(*1221)	1250	26	48	61½	40	47½	52
Zeneca	1350	87½	117½	146½	33½	49½	59
(*1387½)	1400	61	90½	119½	56	71½	81
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	20	32½	40½	3	14½	18½
(*435)	460	3½	14	22½	26	36½	40
Ladbroke	200	10½	21	24½	7½	14½	16
(*204)	220	4	12½	15	18½	25½	27
Utd Bisc	240	9½	19	23½	4	10	14½
(*243½)	260	2½	10½	15	17	21	25½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA	550	20½	30½	38	18	24	28
(*552½)	600	4½	11½	17½	54	57	59
Thames W	550	32	39	44	16	20½	26½
(*572½)	600	8	16	22	48	51½	56½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	500	12½	29½	38	10½	27	32
(*500½)	550	0½	11	19	49½	60½	64
BTR	300	24	31½	35	0	3	7
(*323)	330	3	12	17	4	14	20
Br Aero	850	41	72	85½	4	22½	33½
(*884½)	900	11½	43	58½	25	44½	56½
Br Telecom	360	14	25	28½	4½	17	21
(*369½)	390	2	10½	15	22	35½	38½
Cadbury	500	27	44½	51½	3	13	19
(*521½)	550	4½	19½	27	30	38	44
Guinness	460	20½	35½	42½	3½	11½	16½
(*476)	500	3	15½	22½	25½	31½	36½
GEC	330	24	31	34½	1	8½	11½
(*352)	360	4½	13	19	11	23½	26½
Hanson	180	19	21½	23	0	2½	5½
(*198½)	200	3½	9	12	4½	10½	14½
LASMO	180	16½	23½	29	1	4½	7
(*194)	200	5	12	18	9	12½	16
Lucas	220	7	17½	23	9	15	21
(*221)	240	1½	9½	15	23	27	33
Pilkingtn	210	11	15½	—	1½	8½	—
(*218½)	229	2	6½	—	11½	19	—
Prudential	460	9½	27	36	9½	19	27½
(*460½)	500	0½	11½	19½	30½	45	51½
Redland	420	14	25	32½	10½	21½	27
(*430)	460	0½	10	17	43½	48	52
R-Royce	240	9	19	26½	4	12	16
(*244)	260	1½	10	17	17	23	26½
Tesco	280	7½	18½	23½	5½	11½	16½
(*282)	300	1	9½	15	19	23	28
Vodafone	260	8	18½	25½	6½	16	20
(*261½)	280	1½	10½	17	19½	27½	31½
Williams	330	19½	22	25½	2½	8½	14½
(*348½)	360	1	7½	10½	22	26	31

FT-SE INDEX (*3818½)

	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950
Calls						
May	139	95	56½	30½	13½	4½
Jun	159½	121½	89	61½	38½	23½
Jul	181	144	112½	84½	62	43
Aug	194	160	128½	101	76½	56½
Dec	265½	—	203½	—	154	—
Puts						
May	7	13½	26	49½	89½	131½
Jun	25	37½	55	78½	106½	142½
Jul	41	53½	72½	94½	122	154½
Aug	51½	67	86	109	134½	165½
Dec	98½	—	134	—	184	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat	550	32½	44	56	9½	21½	27
(*568)	600	9	20½	32	36½	48½	53½
Amstrad	180	20	26½	31	3½	7	9½
(*195)	200	8½	16	20½	11½	15½	19
Barclays	700	49½	62	73	6	19½	23½
(*737)	750	18½	33½	46	27	42	47
Blue Circ	360	15	26½	32	12½	19	23½
(*361½)	390	4½	13½	19	31½	36	41
Br Gas	240	8½	14½	18	12½	16	21
(*242)	260	3½	8	10½	28	30	33½
Dixons	460	36	45½	56	6	16	19½
(*486½)	500	13	24½	35	24	35½	38½
Forte	343	37	39½	—	0	1	—
(*379½)	373	9	14½	—	4	8	—
Tarmac	130	9½	15½	18½	5	8	11½
(*134)	140	5	11	13½	10½	13	16½
Hillsdwn	180	8½	11½	14½	6	9½	12
(*187½)	200	1½	4½	6½	21½	23	24½
Lonrho	180	10	22½	26½	1½	4½	6
(*196)	200	6	10½	15	8½	12½	14½
Sears	100	3	6½	7½	4½	6	8
(*100½)	110	0½	3	4	12½	13½	14½
Thorn	1800	108	144½	173	31	65	78
(*1862½)	1900	53½	94	124	75	114½	126½
Tomkins	260	10	21	24½	4½	11	13½
(*266½)	280	6	11	15	14½	22	24½
Lloyds TSB	292	32½	—	—	2	—	—
(*320½)	322	13	—	—	12	—	—
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo W	750	55½	70½	79½	14½	28½	33½
(*783)	800	27	43	53½	35	53½	58
HSBC	950	78	97	114½	21½	40½	45
(*992)	1000	48½	70½	88	41½	63½	68
Reuter	750	54½	67	84½	21	34½	39
(*773)	800	26½	41½	59½	46½	57	61½
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Royal Ins	360	24	32	39	13½	21½	24½
(*367)	390	11	19	25½	30½	38½	41
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Fisons	260	6	—	—	5½	—	—
(*265)	280	0½	—	—	19½	—	—
	Series	May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	29½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	1	—	—	25	—	—
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	550	35	40½	43	30½	38½	39½
(*559)	600	17	22½	25	65	71½	71½
Scot Pwr	360	19½	27	30½	9½	14½	16½
(*369)	390	6½	13	17½	24	32½	33½

April 25, 1996 Tot: 48347 Call: 13640 Put: 34707 FT-SE Call: 1277 Put: 8257

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 64815	Jun 96	3821.0	3839.0	3816.0	3835.0	10066
	Sep 96				3851.0	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4121	Jun 96				4590.0	0
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 365547	Jun 96	93.96	94.00	93.95	93.99	14838
	Sep 96	93.82	93.89	93.79	93.88	22376
	Dec 96	93.44	93.59	93.42	93.58	48590
Three Month Euro Yen	Sep 96	98.86	98.86	98.86	98.87	18
	Dec 96	98.55	98.57	98.54	98.57	1344
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1088501	Jun 96	96.84	96.85	96.83	96.84	15565
	Sep 96	96.84	96.86	96.83	96.84	15211
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 113817	Jun 96	105-31	106-21	105-29	106-16	55961
	Sep 96	104-30	104-30	104-30	105-16	1
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	117.90	117.92	117.56	117.65	4229
	Sep 96	116.80	116.80	116.55	116.54	657
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 197940	Jun 96	97.00	97.13	96.86	96.96	125728
	Sep 96	96.20	96.20	96.00	96.06	1643
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 22653	Jun 96	95.80	95.82	95.80	95.82	1239
	Sep 96	95.81	95.83	95.81	95.83	616
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 54563	Jun 96	98.18	98.21	98.18	98.19	3523
	Sep 96	98.12	98.18	98.12	98.16	4399
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 61888	Jun 96	114.00	114.64	114.00	114.17	21062
	Sep 96	113.70	113.70	113.70	113.51	135

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6 Week fixed: 6

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞ ; 3 mth 5$\frac{13}{16}$. Sell: 2 mth 5$\frac{13}{16}$; 3 mth: 5¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5$\frac{13}{16}$-5¾	5$\frac{29}{32}$-5$\frac{25}{32}$	5⅞-5$\frac{13}{16}$	5⅞-5$\frac{13}{16}$	
Sterling Money Rates:	6$\frac{1}{16}$-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6¼-6⅛
Interbank:	6$\frac{1}{16}$-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6⅛-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6⅜-6¼

Overnight: open 6 , close 6½ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5$\frac{15}{16}$	n/a	5$\frac{15}{16}$	6	6¼
Sterling CDs:	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{31}{32}$	6$\frac{5}{16}$-6¼
Dollar CDs:	5.31	n/a	5.35	5.42	5.70
Building Society CDs:	6$\frac{1}{16}$-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6	6¼-6$\frac{3}{16}$

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	3$\frac{15}{16}$-3$\frac{13}{16}$	3$\frac{13}{16}$-3¾	3$\frac{13}{16}$-3$\frac{11}{16}$	3$\frac{13}{16}$-3$\frac{11}{16}$	4-3
Swiss Franc:	1$\frac{13}{16}$-1$\frac{11}{16}$	1$\frac{13}{16}$-1¾	1$\frac{13}{16}$-1$\frac{11}{16}$	1⅞-1¾	2-1
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	$\frac{9}{16}$-$\frac{7}{16}$	$\frac{11}{16}$-$\frac{9}{16}$	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $390.30-390.60 Close: $394.00-394.50 High: $394.00-394.50

Low: $389.80-390.30 AM: $390.35 PM: $393.30

Krugerrand: $393.75-396.75 (£260.00-262.00)

Platinum: $403.85 (£267.10) Silver: $5.38 (£3.555) Palladium: $134.75 (£89.10)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 25	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5815-2.5891	2.5861-2.5891	⅝-⅜pr	2¼-2pr
Brussels	47.29-47.58	47.49-47.53	12-9pr	35-30pr
Copenhagen	8.8835-8.9224	8.9068-8.9166	1⅝-1⅛pr	5¼-4½pr
Dublin	0.9674-0.9704	0.9685-0.9700	10-7pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.3063-2.3126	2.3105-2.3126	⅝-⅜pr	1½-1¼pr
Lisbon	235.38-236.90	236.32-236.61	¼-¾ds	¼-¾ds
Madrid	191.17-191.98	191.58-191.77	24-34ds	67-84ds
Milan	2347.3-2363.0	2359.2-2361.4	6-8ds	17-19ds
Montreal	2.0598-2.0659	2.0616-2.0636	0.24-0.15pr	0.44-0.33pr
New York	1.5104-1.5134	1.5109-1.5118	0.08-0.06pr	0.21-0.18pr
Oslo	9.8952-9.9358	9.9165-9.9337	1⅛-⅝pr	3⅛-2⅝pr
Paris	7.7850-7.8194	7.8030-7.8092	1½-1⅛pr	4¼-4pr
Stockholm	10.186-10.294	10.255-10.277	¼-¾ds	¼-¾ds
Tokyo	160.895-161.841	160.998-161.067	⅞-⅝pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Vienna	16.209-16.285	16.255-16.271	⅞-⅝pr	1¼-1pr
Zurich	1.8640-1.8786	1.8675-1.8699	⅝-⅜pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2714-1.2722
Austria	10.75-10.77
Belgium (Com)	31.45-31.46
Canada	1.3639-1.3644
Denmark	5.9000-5.9050
France	5.1690-5.1720
Germany	1.5303-1.5305
Hong Kong	7.7348-7.7358
Ireland	1.5586-1.5606
Italy	1561.00-1564.00
Japan	106.52-106.59
Malaysia	2.5035-2.5045
Netherlands	1.7130-1.7135
Norway	6.5678-6.5753
Portugal	156.56-156.66
Singapore	1.4080-1.4090
Spain	126.92-126.97
Sweden	6.8037-6.8137
Switzerland	1.2374-1.2384

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5105-1.5151
Australia dollar	1.9194-1.9218
Bahrain dinar	0.5640-0.5760
Brazil real*	1.4762-1.4803
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7080-0.7180
Finland markka	7.2475-7.3635
Greece drachma	363.50-370.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.6850-11.6934
India rupee	51.27-52.23
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4490-0.4590
Malaysia ringgit	3.7820-3.7858
New Zealand dollar	2.2158-2.2187
Pakistan rupee	52.42 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4450-5.5000
Singapore dollar	2.1271-2.1298
S Africa rand (com)	6.4710-6.5730
U A E dirham	5.4950-5.6190

Barclays Bank GTS · Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	2,400	Land Secs	1,400
ASDA Gp	5,200	Legal & Gn	951
Abbey Ntl	3,600	Lloyds TSB	8,400
Allied Dom	1,700	Marks Spr	1,900
Argos	928	NatWst Bk	2,400
Argyll Gp	449	Nat Grid	4,400
AB Foods	431	Nat Power	12,000
BAA	1,600	P & O	988
BAT Inds	7,700	Pearson	334
BOC	2,100	Pilkington	3,400
BP	9,500	PowerGen	3,700
BSkyB	1,900	Prudential	3,700
BTR	7,600	REXAM	1,900
BT	3,900	RMC	294
Bk of Scot	2,900	RTZ	2,600
Barclays	3,800	Rank Org	5,200
Bass	470	Reckitt Col	1,500
Blue Circle	2,400	Redland	2,700
Boots	745	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	782	Penroldl	6,400
BA	4,100	Reuters	2,700
Brit Gas	8,100	Rolls Royce	5,800
Brit Steel	6,300	Royal Ins	704
Burmah Cstl	1,300	Ryl Bk Scot	433
Burton	4,300	Sainsbury	7,500
Cable Wire	2,700	Schroders	43
Cadbury	1,900	Scot & New	821
Carlton Cms	2,400	Scot Power	2,300
Cm Union	1,300	Svrn Trent	755
Cookson	2,400	Shell Trans	4,900
Courtaulds	261	Siebe	1,300
Dixons	207	SmKl Bch	1,800
Enterpr Oil	1,700	Smith Nph	3,800
For & Col IT	1,600	Smiths Inds	232
GKN	594	Sthern Elec	3,300
GRE	3,200	Std Chartd	1,200
GUS	3,100	Sun Allnce	2,000
Gen Acc	585	TI Gp	347
Gen Elec	5,000	Tate & Lyle	1,000
Glaxo Well	6,900	Tesco	2,800
Granada	2,600	Thames W	2,300
Grand Met	5,800	Thrn EMI	978
Greenalls	801	Tomkins	6,100
Guinness	3,100	Unilever	2,500
HSBC	2,000	United Utils	2,400
Hanson	9,300	Vodafone	5,900
ICI	3,800	Whitbread	719
Kingfisher	2,200	Wilms Hld	1,800
LASMO	617	Wolseley	665
Ladbroke	16,000	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Apr 25 midday	Apr 24 close
AMP Inc	44	44
AMR Corp	57	58
ASA	46	44
AT & T	60	60
Abbott Labs	40	40
Advanced Micro	18	18
Aetna Life	70	70
Ahmanson (HF)	23	23
Air Prod & Chem	57	57
AirTouch Comm	30	29
Alberto-Culver B	37	37
Albertson's	38	38
Alcan Aluminum	31	31
Alco Standard	56	56
Allied Signal	57	57
Alum Co of Am	62	62
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	56	57
Amer Brands	41	41
Amer El Power	40	40
Amer Express	46	46
Amer Genl Corp	34	34
Amer Home Pr	105	105
Amer Intl	91	92
Amer Stores	33	33
Amer Standard	28	27
Ameritech	58	58
Amoco	73	73
Anheuser-Busch	68	69
Apple Computer	24	24
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	5	5
Armstrng Wrld	57	57
Asarco	34	34
Ashland Oil	41	42
Atl Richfield	116	117
Auto Data Pro	37	37
Avery Dennison	56	57
Avon Products	87	87
Baker Hughes	31	31
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	34	34
BankAmerica	72	73
Bank of NY	47	47
Bankers Tr NY	68	69
Barnett Banks	62	62
Bausch & Lomb	40	40
Baxter Intl	42	43
Becton Dickinsn	79	80
Bell Atlantic	65	65
Bell Industries	21	21
BellSouth	39	39
Black & Decker	39	39
Block (H&R)	36	36
Boeing	80	80
Boise Cascade	45	44
Bristol Myrs Sq	81	80
Browning Ferris	29	30
Brunswick	22	22
Burlington Nthn	85	85
CMS Energy Corp	28	28
CNA Financial	97	97
CPC Intl	67	67
CSX	51	51
Campbell Soup	59	59
Can Pacific	20	19
Carolina Pwr	35	35
Caterpillar	64	64
Central & SW	26	27
Champion Intl	49	48
Chase Manhat	69	69
Chevron Corp	56	58
Chrysler	63	63
Chubb Corp	93	93
Cigna Corp	110	112
Citicorp	78	78
Clorox	79	79
Coastal Corp	39	39
Coca Cola	80	80
Colgate-Palmolive	75	75
Columbia Gas	49	49
ColumbiaHCA	52	52
Compaq Comp	47	47
Comp Ass Intl	74	74
Conagra	39	39
Conrail	69	68
Cons Edison	29	29
Cons Nat Gas	40	40
Cooper Inds	42	42
Corestates	38	39
Corning Inc	34	34
Crown Cork	47	47
Dana Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deere	42	42
Delta Air Lines	71	70
Deluxe Corp	34	33
Digital Equip	61	61
Dillard Dept St	38	38
Disney (Walt)	61	60
Dominion Res	37	38
Donnelley (RR)	35	36
Dover Corp	52	51
Dow Chemical	87	87
Dow Jones	37	37
Dresser	32	32
Duke Power	46	46
Dun & Bradstreet	59	60
Du Pont	79	80
Eastman Chem	67	66

	Apr 25 midday	Apr 24 close
Eastman Kodak	76	76
Eaton Corp	60	60
Edison Int	15	15
Emerson Elec	84	84
Engelhard Corp	24	24
Enron Corp	40	40
Entergy	25	25
Ethyl Corp	10	10
Exxon	83	84
FMC Corp	70	69
FPL Group	42	42
Federal Express	79	79
Fed Nat Mtge	30	30
First Bk Sys	60	59
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	42	43
Fluor Corp	66	65
Ford Motor	35	35
GTE Corp	43	43
Gannett	68	68
Gap Inc Del	29	29
Gen Dynamics	62	62
Gen Electric	78	79
Gen Mills	54	53
Gen Motors	55	55
Gen Reinsurance	142	144
Gen Signal	37	37
Genuine Parts	44	44
Georgia Pac	74	72
Gillette	53	53
Glaxo Welle ADR	23	23
Goodrich (BF)	39	39
Goodyear Tire	50	51
Grace (W&R)	80	79
Gt Atl Pac Tea	34	35
Great Wstn Fin	22	23
Halliburton	57	57
Harcourt General	43	43
Heinz (HJ)	33	33
Hercules	61	62
Hershey Foods	74	74
Hewlett Packard	105	106
Hilton Hotels	104	105
Home Depot	46	46
Homestake Mng	19	19
Honeywell	52	52
Household Intl	69	69
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	24	24
ITT Corp	60	62
Illinois Tool	68	68
Illinova	25	25
INCO	33	33
Ingersoll Rand	39	39
Inland Steel	24	24
Intel Corp	69	70
IBM	107	106
Intl Flav & Fr	47	47
Intl Paper	40	39
James River Va	27	26
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	90	89
Kellogg	70	69
Kerr-McGee	66	67
Kimberly-Clark	71	71
Kmart	10	10
Knight-Ridder	71	70
Lilly (Eli)	56	55
Limited Inc	19	19
Lincoln Nat	48	48
Litton	45	45
Liz Claiborne	36	35
Lockheed Martin	79	77
Louisiana Pac	23	23
MCI Comm	29	29
Marriott Int	47	48
Marsh & McLnn	92	92
Mason Corp	27	27
May Dept St	49	[illegible]
Maytag Corp	20	20
McDonalds	47	47
McDonnell D	[illegible]	[illegible]
McGraw Hill	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mead Corp	56	55
Medtronic	51	51
Mellon Bk	54	54
Melville Corp	38	38
Merck Inc	59	60
Merrill Lynch	59	59
Microsoft	111	111
Minnesota Mine	64	64
Mobil Corp	115	116
Monsanto	149	150
Morgan (JP)	82	83
Motorola Inc	64	63
Natl Semi	16	16
Natl Service Ind	37	37
Navistar Int	10	11
NY Times A	32	32
Newmont Mng	55	55
Niag Mohawk	8	8
Nike B	87	86
NL Industries	13	13
Noram Energy	10	10
Nordstrom	46	46
Norfolk Sthrn	84	84
Nthn State Pwr	49	48
Norwest Corp	35	36
Nynex Corp	49	49
Occidental Pet	26	27
Ohio Edison	20	20

	Apr 25 midday	Apr 24 close
Oracle	33	34
Oryx Energy Co	16	16
Overseas Ship	18	18
Owens Corning	39	39
PHH Corp	55	55
PPG Industries	50	51
PNC Bank	29	29
PP&L Res	22	22
Paccar Inc	49	49
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	25	25
Pac Gas & Elect	22	22
Pac Telesis	34	34
Pall Corp	28	28
Parker Hannifin	41	41
Peco Energy	24	24
Penney (JC)	48	48
Pennzoil	41	43
Pepsico	58	59
Pfizer	67	67
Pharm & Upjhn	36	38
Phelps Dodge	72	73
Philip Morris	87	87
Phillips Pet	40	40
Pitney Bowes	48	48
Polaroid	44	45
PriceCostco	19	18
Procter & Gmbl	84	84
Providian	46	46
Pub Serv E & G	25	26
Quaker Oats	33	33
Ralston Purina	59	60
Raychem Corp	75	75
Raytheon	49	49
Reebok Intl	29	28
Reynolds Metals	53	54
Rockwell Intl	57	57
Rohm & Haas	66	66
Royal Dutch	141	143
Rubbermaid	28	28
SBC Comms	50	50
Safeco Corp	34	34
St Paul's Cos	54	55
Salomon Inc	40	41
Sara Lee Corp	31	31
Schering Plough	57	55
Schlumberger	86	86
Seagram	34	33
Sears Roebuck	50	50
Shell Trans	79	79
Sherwin Wlms	44	44
Skyline Corp	24	24
Snap-On-Tools	47	47
Southern Co	22	22
Sprint Corp	41	40
Stanley Works	61	62
Sun Company	30	31
Sun Microsys	55	55
Suntrust	69	70
Supervalu	31	32
Sysco Corp	32	32
TRW Inc	92	92
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	12	12
Tandy Corp	52	50
Teledyne	36	36
Temple Inland	48	47
Tenneco	54	54
Texaco	84	85
Texas Inst	58	58
Texas Utilities	39	39
Textron	87	86
Time Warner	40	40
Times-Mirror A	42	42
Timken	41	41
Torchmark	43	43
Toys R Us	27	27
Transamerica	75	76
Travelers	60	61
Tribune	70	71
Tyco Labs	39	39
UST Inc	32	31
UAL	206	212
US Inds	21	21
USX Marathon	21	21
Unicom	27	27
Unilever NV	136	139
Union Camp	53	51
Union Carbide	[illegible]	47
Union Pacific	68	69
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	16	16
USF&G Corp	16	16
US Life	28	28
United Tech	111	111
Unocal Corp	33	33
VF Corp	56	56
WMX Tech	33	33
Wal-Mart Stores	22	23
Warner-Lambert	113	111
Wells Fargo	245	248
Westinghouse El	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	48	47
Whirlpool	61	60
Whitman	25	24
Winn Dixie	33	33
Woolworth	19	19
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	51	51
Xerox	144	143
Yellow Corp	12	12

هكذا من الاول

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Long run south for savers

KEN CULLEY, the defender-in-chief of building society mutuality, lays claim to the ultimate carpetbagging brag. The Portman, the Top 20 building society, recently opened accounts for a claustrophobic carload of "savers" who had driven doggedly from Glasgow to their nearest branch in Birmingham.

With their fingers crossed all the way, *the passengers are convinced* that the Portman is the next society to be taken over. According to Ken: *"They should have built* Hadrian's Wall higher."

Loyalty pays

LOYAL Railtrack chair*man Bob Horton* is a figurehead for old-fashioned values. Not surprising then that Simmons & Simmons, the law firm came through Railtrack's beauty parade process with the lion's share of the advisory work on the flotation. *It was, if you remember,* Simmons & Simmons who negotiated Horton's £1.53 *million* pay-off when he was booted out of the top job at BP in 1992.

Each-way bet

THE oldest and second largest investment trust, Foreign & Colonial is waving both political colours in its run up to the forthcoming election. The controversial matter over the company's £25,000 donation to the Conservative Party — double the usual donation this year due *to* the election — will be put to the vote at today's AGM. However, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been invited to speak *at F&C's Need for Growth* in Emerging Markets conference next month.

"I think we're with the Woolwich, but we might be with the Pru"

THE cost-cutting BBC has caused a storm over its decision to raise the price of a cuppa from 14p to 20p. From May 6, food and drink prices rise 12 per cent, inciting staff to write irate letters to the staff magazine Ariel. *What a palaver, when the BBC has one of the best value watering holes in town.*

Training daze

STAFF at NFU Mutual Insurance Society are polishing their office windows in anticipation of the Scottish football squad's arrival in their backyard this summer. Scotland's manager Craig Brown snapped up the offer to use the Stratford-upon-Avon insurers' magnificent sports facilities, made by Rangers supporter and NFU Mutual managing director, Andrew Young who emphasises that the invasion will not cost his *policyholders* a thing.

Return trip

A BUMPY ride for RBS Advanta, the Edinburgh credit card company, which recently opened a London *office.* While packing, planning manager Mark Austin dropped his airline ticket into his office equipment, which was to go by road. Red-faced Austin was at the airport before realising his gaffe. He returned to the office, rescued his ticket from the removal van, and dashed back to the airport.

MORAG PRESTON

Caring environment: in the battle to sell more policies, private health insurers like BUPA have forged links with many NHS-run hospitals

Battle to spread benefits of private healthcare hots up

Marianne Curphey looks at progress in the fight to change perceptions about medical protection

Private medical insurance may be a £2 billion industry but for the insurers, too *many prospective clients still* regard it as an unglamorous preserve of the wealthy.

As pressure on the health service grows, insurers believe that more people will turn to private cover to obtain speedy or convenient treatment from doctors they trust. They also believe it offers lucrative opportunities to turn a profit: Norwich Union has broken into the black after entering the market, and Legal and General is poised to enter.

*Already 11 per cent of Brit*ons have their own healthcare cover, even though they can still obtain free National Health Service treatment.

Insurers see young people as the key to growth. Until now, this group has been reluctant to take out medical protection, believing they are unlikely to need major surgery until middle age. However, BUPA and PPP, the two largest insurers, are attempting to change these percep*tions, using loyalty schemes* and new products aimed at families, women and active young people.

Faced with an increasingly competitive market and an influx of foreign insurers trying to undercut premiums, Britain's 25 healthcare insurers are keen to take a share of the estimated 4 per cent increase in policyholders over the next few years.

BUPA, with an estimated 46 per cent share, dominates the *market, followed* by PPP with 28 per cent. William Laing, director of the healthcare market analysts Laing & Buisson, says private *medical insur*ance (PMI) used to be a rapidly growing sector, but slowed early in the 1990s recession and is only now starting to recover.

Mr Laing says BUPA and PPP's main competition has come from Norwich Union, which put substantial investment into its products to build a market share of around 9 per cent from scratch. WPA is the next largest PMI provider, *with 4 per cent; the rest of the* market is divided among much smaller players.

Mr Laing believes that far from seeing consolidation, the industry will become ever more fragmented as more and more general insurers see the opportunity in selling PMI and bring out their own products.Competition is erod*ing BUPA's premier position* and during the recession it lost many of its corporate clients as firms cut staff perks to reduce costs. Its loyalty scheme, launched this week, aims to encourage customers to renew their policies every year, and offers incentives to anyone who joins a BUPA-approved health club.

Unlike general insurance, where premiums have fallen by up to 15 per cent in the last few years and competition is so fierce that *some underwrit*ers have been selling unprofitable business, medical insurance is *still* seen as a *lucrative area* with room for expansion. However, like general insurance, companies selling PMI tend to spend money acquiring new business and only make money when customers renew — their *loyalty is essential.*

Unlike NHS provision, private medical insurance only pays for acute conditions that can be cured by an operation or short-term course of treatment. An estimated 11 per cent of the population has paid-for cover, but as the percentage of elderly in the population rises by an estimated 50 per cent *within the next 35 years,* demand will grow.

Well over half of all medical insurance is sold direct by sales agents or through advertising, and since health insurance premiums in the UK are now worth about £1.5 billion annually, and sales commission is typically 10 per cent of the yearly premium, agents can make a lot of money selling such products.

PMI is currently unregulated. That may soon change. The *market* is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, which is concerned that exclusion clauses can leave customers with far less cover than they imagined. It is also examining the practice of "churning", *whereby* rival insurers persuade customers to switch insurers, even though it might be in the customer's best *interest to stay put. The OFT is* due to make its findings public next month.

BUPA has one million personal customers and two million more clients under corporate schemes. It operates 29 hospitals in the UK and has links with 800 more, including NHS institutions.

Unlike PPP, which is about *to float, BUPA says it is* committed to keeping its provident status. Peter Jacobs, BUPA's chief executive, sees no reason to bring BUPA to the stock market "in the next five years". He said: "We do not need extra capital and the company is financially sound. We have reserves of £565 million and the advantage of being a provident institution is that the money we make can be reinvested in healthcare."

PPP, meanwhile, recognises *that the PMI market is "fierce*ly competitive". Having supported the relaunch of its brand with prime-time television advertising, PPP says it now has ambitions to grow its market share. Rather than *introduce* a loyalty scheme similar to BUPA's, it is concentrating on promoting the benefits of its 24-hour health line, which is staffed by nurses who can advise policyholders on medical matters. It is also marketing its healthcare product to active young people who do not need major surgery but who often need physiotherapy for sports injuries.

BUPA's loyalty scheme involves a system of credits for customers who renew policies each year. These credits, *which have no monetary* value, can be exchanged for healthcare benefits. Policies are cancelled if the policyholder misses a premium or stops the plan.

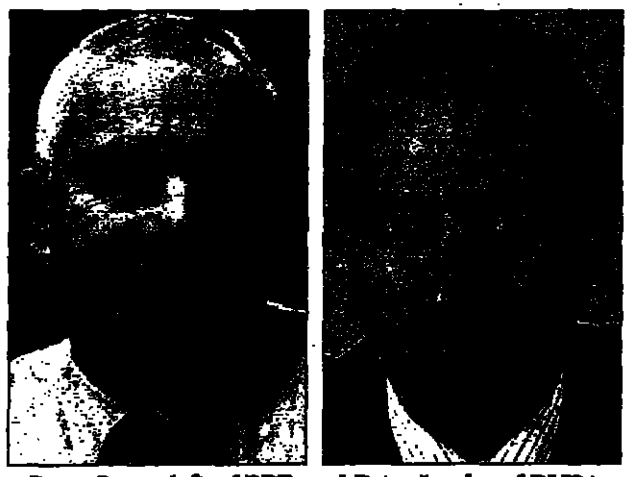
BUPA's other *new* move is to encourage policyholders to join an approved health club in return for membership discounts. BUPA has created links with a network of 240 health and fitness clubs through the Fitness Industry Association, and members are offered 20 per cent off the *joining fee.*

Members of fitness clubs can apply for discounts of up to 15 per cent on private medical insurance and health screening. BUPA is happy to admit that this is a move towards keeping customers healthier and, therefore, less likely to make a claim.

Peter Jacobs described it an *incentive scheme, and not* compulsory: "We're not going to take a Big Brother attitude," he said. "We do not feel it is our place to make people go to the gym every week, but we do feel preventive medicine has an important role to play in the well-being of our clients. In the long run, it is better for them and cheaper for us."

In addition, BUPA is setting up a surgeons' charter, which will effectively deliver higher volumes of patients to hospitals and surgeons who keep within its recommended prices. The insurer is concerned that private medical practitioners are charging too much for certain treatments and that many operations need not be undertaken.

When Peter Jacobs arrived in 1991, BUPA losses were £38.2 million. The latest returns covering 1995 show a surplus of £99.2 million, while PPP's pre-tax profits for 1995 was £32.2 million.



Peter Owen, left, of PPP, and Peter Jacobs, of BUPA

The companies going for gold at the Olympics

Ian Brodie explains why Coca-Cola will spend $650 million on the games

The Olympic Torch Relay will tomorrow embark on an 84-day run across America. The Coca-Cola Company and other sponsors are confident the runners' path is paved with gold.

For although opening ceremonies for the Atlanta Olympics do not begin until July 19, the International Olympic Committee is already working closely with its corporate patrons. The *flow of private money is* now so important that the IOC and the Atlanta organisers have put aside $10 million to *counter-attack any "parasite"* firm that implies in its advertising that it is an Olympic sponsor when it is not.

Coke is the Official Pre*senter of the relay* and, in part-exchange for its investment of $12 million, has chosen a quarter of the 10,000 runners from candidates suggested by Coke drinkers around the world.

The relay's progress through 1,300 towns across 42 states amounts to a continuous, rolling commercial. At each festive *stop,* Coke will be served. Coke signs will be up, and Coke will control sales of pins, jackets and other relay merchandise. The escorting caravan will drive BMW cars using Texaco petrol, stay at Holiday Inns, wear Champion sportswear, use Motorola cell phones, and fly on Delta Airlines — all relay *sponsors.*

At each stop, Coke will be served and it will control merchandise

Coca-Cola insists that even with all its promotion and advertising the relay will be *tastefully done.* "I think people will be pleased by the purity and thoughtfulness of the way it's presented," said Stu Cross, director of worldwide sports for the soft drink group. The runners themselves will wear no corporate logos.

The relay is a warm-up for Coca-Cola's huge sponsorship during the games which *will be held within sight of* the company's Atlanta headquarters. The company has built the first Olympic theme park in the centre of the city.

Disc jockeys will be *flown* in from around the world, including Capital Radio in London, to broadcast from the park. Britain's winning entry for Coke-inspired folk art, combining Coca-Cola bottles and Stonehenge, was designed by Brian Anderson, a sculptor from Dyfed. He has won £5,000 and a trip to the games.

Coca-Cola will spend a reported $650 million on the Olympics, half its advertising and marketing budget for the year. Executives are satisfied that their long association with the Olympics pays off in enhanced corporate image, social contribution and increased sales globally.

The company has paid $40 million to be a worldwide sponsor along with nine others: Visa, Kodak, *Time* magazine and *Sports Illustrated,* Panasonic, IBM, Xerox, Bausch and Lomb optical products, John Hancock Insurance and United Parcels Service.

Below this top ten are progressively less expensive tiers of Olympic benefactors known as partners, national sponsors, suppliers and licensees. The list includes an employment agency, three brands of vehicles, an air-conditioning firm, even two television quiz shows.

Few sponsors pay their obligation totally in cash. Most contracts *involve a barter* system for goods and services. For example, Dial will deliver 300 tons of soap, deodorant, shampoo and Brillo pads to the Olympic villages.

Not everyone is convinced that the Olympic connection pays off. Obtaining rights to the five-ring Olympic symbol *is only the start. It takes* costly advertising to capitalise on a firm's commitment. Federal Express dropped out after 1988, saying the investment did not work for them. 3M reached the same conclusion in 1992. But the withdrawal of American Express after 1984 is now seen as a mistake.

Visa stepped in, convinced that credit cards were exactly the type of universal service to benefit from being part of *the Olympic action. Now* only Visa can be used to buy tickets to the games, or at the venues, and the company reckons its *Olympic link is* worth a 7 per cent increase in profits. John Bennett, marketing director for Visa International, said: "Our tracking studies found that those five rings make customers feel better about you as a company and about your product."

End to RPM will hit community

From S. G. Tanna

Sir, Asda's corporate counsel may *be of the opinion* that resale price maintenance (RPM) on non-prescription medicines is "an outdated piece of junk law" (April 17). What he has not considered is the potentially devastating long-term effect that the abolition of RPM will have on our local community pharmacies.

The removal of RPM will force the closure of many smaller, independent pharmacies who will be unable to compete with the superstores. Consumers will, therefore, have less access to the wide range of services — from dispensing to health care advice — offered by the pharmacist, which will hit the most vulnerable particularly hard.

We are moving towards an age of responsible self-medication and, as such, the local pharmacist will be playing an increasingly important role in primary *healthcare. The loss* of your local pharmacy is a high price to pay for cheaper medicines, Mr Norman.

Yours faithfully,
S. G TANNA,
Director,
Hetpole Ltd,
Dispensing chemist,
398 Dedworth Road,
Windsor, Berkshire.

Journey back in time with the RAC

From J. A. G. Stonehouse

Sir, I refer to your article "GRE poised to buy RAC's insurance broking side" (April 19). To say that the RAC "has been offering motor insurance for more than 20 years" is *something of an understatement.* Prior to 1948 RAC policies were offered on behalf of the RAC by two Lloyd's brokers, Muir Beddall and Robt. Bradford. In 1947 they formed a jointly owned company, Beddall Bradford, which by agreement with the RAC devoted its activities entirely to the provision of insurance facilities for members of the RAC with policy wording approved by the RAC and an arbitration clause by the RAC in the event of dispute. Initially the policies were underwritten at Lloyd's but subsequently the panel was enlarged to include various insurance companies.

This precedes *most* of the present competitors. In the early days the RAC-approved policies provided a quality *product at a price below the* then motor tariff and in the 1960s and 1970s a safe refuge when the cut-price insurers collapsed. (Remember the Fire Auto & Marine and the Vehicle & General?)

Beddall Bradford was acquired by the RAC in 1984.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. G. STONEHOUSE
(formerly chief executive Beddall Bradford & Co Ltd),
Elm Lodge,
43 Upper Tilehouse Street,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Comfort conflict

From Mr Denis Christian,

Sir, I have just heard Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, say that he is "comfortable" with *the loss of* £925 million during the first year of operation. One trusts that countries, peoples, share*holders and banks are equally* comfortable and that Sir Alastair has a comfortable retirement in October.

Actually, I am more concerned about the misuse of the English language, and that such leaders of industry should see "comfortable" and "ashamed" as synonyms.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS CHRISTIAN,
37 Swanscombe Road,
Chiswick,
London W4.

Simple solution that will give shareholders a greater say at AGMs

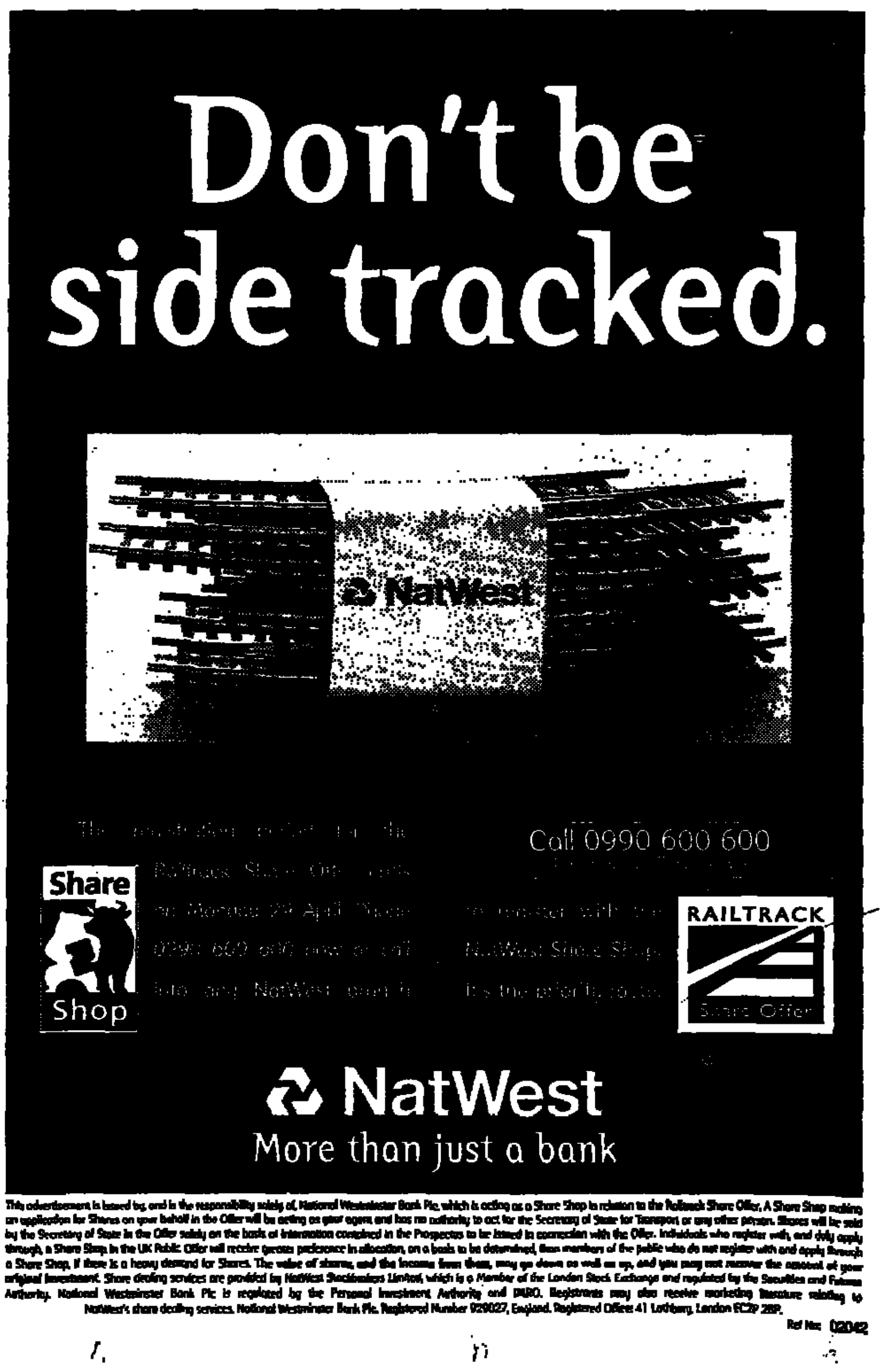
From Ralph Instone

Sir, There is a simple solution, which I have already suggested to the DTI, to the problem (Graham Searjeant, April 20) of giving shareholders a greater say at AGMs without derogating from directors' responsibilities.

All voting shareholders should be given a statutory right to raise any matter at the AGM on giving not less than, say, three days' prior notice to the company, whether or not the matter falls within the scope of the circulated agenda. Companies should be obliged to append a note to this effect to the notice convening the meeting, like the note at present required about voting by proxy.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH INSTONE,
18 Fairacres,
Roehampton Lane,
SW1.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.



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AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Grolund Amer	217.20	229.80	+ 0.60	0.15
Grolund Equity	281.20	299.20	− 0.90	1.79
Grolund Euro	272.90	288.80	− 1.30	0.57
Grolund Eqst Bal	132.30	137.10	.	2.57
Grolund Gilt	76.09	78.45		6.13
Grolund Japan	195.40	206.80	+ 1.40	..

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	662.40	704.70†	− 3.70	2.51
General Inc	562.70	598.70†	− 3.20	2.51
UK Growth Acc	448.60	477.30†	− 2.90	2.72
UK Growth Inc	294.50	313.40†	− 1.90	2.72
Higher Inc Acc	800.30	851.40†	− 9.20	4.17
Higher Inc Inc	436.60	464.50	− 5.00	4.17
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	205.10	218.50†	− 0.30	5.65
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	92.04	97.21†	− 0.07	5.65
Nth America	388.00	409.60†	+ 3.60	...
Europe	360.00	383.00†	− 0.10	0.39
Brit Excell	88.94	94.62	− 0.62	2.86
Brit Fndmtls Acc	115.90	123.40†	− 1.30	4.68
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.50	84.54†	− 0.85	4.68
Global Opps	107.40	114.30	+ 0.10	0.19
Balanced Acc	64.00	68.09†	− 0.29	2.60
Balanced Inc	60.40	64.36†	− 0.26	2.60
Japan Acc	51.40	54.69†	+ 0.42	
Pac Basin Acc	432.00	459.60†	− 0.10	0.78

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed Int	128.30	136.10†	− 0.10	7.35
High Inc Equity	184.70	197.50†	− 0.80	4.36
Worldwide Bond	290.40	307.90	.	4.55
American Growth	369.30	395.10	+ 0.60	0.19
Asian Pacific	356.10	380.90	− 1.30	0.08
Assets & Earnings	311.00	330.90	− 0.78	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	182.30	195.00	− 0.20	0.68
Extra Inc	44.11	46.93†	− 0.10	8.05
General	281.00	298.90	− 0.90	2.93
Global Opps	69.22	73.64	+ 0.01	0.54
Japan	137.40	147.00	+ 0.90	
Managed Inc	48.58	51.68†	− 0.11	4.50
Masterfund	172.20	184.30	.	1.40
US Emerging Cos	213.30	226.90	+ 1.80	
Ethical	83.96	89.32	− 0.10	2.47
International	144.50	153.70	+ 0.20	0.57
Dividend & Growth	69.08	73.49	− 0.34	4.18
Global Gwth & Sec	72.61	77.56	− 0.06	2.42
Latin America	62.33	66.31	+ 0.07	
Capital Reserve	143.00	143.10	..	5.24

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2256.00	2340.00	+44.00	.

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	60.16	62.46†	+ 0.30	0.49
Emerging Mkts	76.16	80.29	+ 0.48	0.04
European	150.50	156.50		
Exempt	1069.80	1139.30†	+ 5.50	1.63
Extra Income #	47.96	51.52†	+ 0.01	6.43
Far East Emg Eco	141.30	148.40	+ 0.80	0.42
Fixed Interest #	24.98	25.98	+ 0.09	9.04
Fund Inv Tst	155.80	163.60†	− 0.10	9.38
Japan	199.30	207.30	+ 0.80	
Latin American	56.27	58.70	− 0.05	0.83
Pacific	91.42	95.99†	+ 0.42	0.27
Property Share	68.66	72.07	+ 0.71	2.43
UK Emerging Cos	73.13	78.72	− 0.05	1.22
UK Growth	52.15	55.14†	− 0.21	2.13
Aber World Port #	84.20	85.81	− 0.15	1.91
Ethical	79.89	83.09	− 0.02	2.12
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.25	50.25†	+ 0.03	7.47

For AEGON see Mallieson

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resdl Property #	94.10	101.00		5.10

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amity Income	90.97	96.52†	+ 0.04	2.01
Income Builder Inc	81.09	86.27	− 0.46	2.72

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	276.60	295.60†	+ 0.30	3.14
Capital	497.60	531.90†	+ 0.50	1.16
Balanced	817.40	873.80†	+ 0.90	2.38
Accumulator	1558.00	1665.00†		1.67
Income Trusts				
American Income	60.66	65.01	+ 0.05	2.46
High Income	447.10	477.90†	− 0.60	3.96
Equity Income	252.70	270.00	− 0.30	3.92
High Yield	269.50	258.00†		4.06
Gilt Securities	32.36	35.23†	+ 0.10	6.30

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	101.71	108.42	+ 0.02	2.38
American Portfolio	119.35	126.84	− 0.15	0.90
European Portfolio	128.59	137.29†	− 0.59	0.42
High Income	51.02	51.14	+ 0.10	7.83
Japanese Portfolio	75.56	80.28†	+ 0.23	
Pacific Portfolio	164.11	176.47	− 0.12	1.34
UK Equity	96.71	103.37†	+ 0.04	2.73
UK Equity & Bd	58.67	59.51	− 0.16	6.31

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	769.71	781.35	+10.68	4.15
Fxd Int Sec	153.78	154.40	+ 0.98	9.26

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	750.77	762.11	+ 4.36	4.30
Investment Acc	633.84	634.36	+19.72	
Fixed Int Inc	124.24	124.84	+ 0.90	8.29
Fixed Int Acc	216.41	217.27	+ 1.58	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	89.48	94.47		3.14
Beck Bio-Tech	47.15	50.83		
Accm Ethical Tst	183.16	192.33	.	0.58
City Fin Assets	83.14	87.30†	.	1.91
City Fin America	122.14	128.35†	..	..
City Fin Intl	97.62	102.51†		0.47
City Fin Japan	166.30	174.63		..
Friars Hse Cap	333.91	356.22	.	2.11
Friars Hse Inc	211.22	224.70	.	3.98
Buckley Wrld Gth	155.79	165.14†	...	...
Falmont Cap Gth	158.81	167.17		.
Falmount Intl	168.16	177.01	.	..
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	58.04	60.95	.	1.54

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	59.75	63.39	+ 0.04	.

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	81.51	86.71	+ 0.51	.
Dragon Growth	76.24	81.54	− 0.17	0.36
Equity High Inc	90.80	96.60	− 0.60	4.08
-do- Accum	127.81	135.97	− 0.85	4.08
Extra Income Inc	25.84	27.20†	− 0.02	7.54
Extra Income Acc	27.64	29.10	− 0.02	7.54
European Gwth	64.19	68.11	− 0.11	0.92
Evergreen	31.68	33.88	− 0.04	..
General Equity	102.32	108.56	− 0.41	2.84
Japan Growth	57.32	60.98	+ 0.54	..
Pedigree Gwth	63.38	67.49	− 0.15	2.34
Pacl Sm Cos Inc	38.60	41.06	+ 0.16	1.37
-do- Accum	40.65	43.24	+ 0.18	1.37
Retirement Inc #	28.30	30.11	− 0.28	5.82
Special Sits	48.80	51.91	+ 0.05	1.87
UK & Overseas	60.47	64.16	− 0.13	0.67

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	68.50	71.26	− 0.48	4.03
Capital	82.50	85.82	− 0.58	2.28
High Income	50.50	52.53	− 0.09	7.21
Top 50	55.56	57.80	− 0.53	2.11

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	189.18	201.26†	+ 0.39	4.56
Long Gilt	41.78	44.32†	+ 0.09	6.40
Monthly Inc Plus	49.28	52.43†	+ 0.01	8.55
Preference Share	47.08	50.08†	− 0.07	7.96
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	136.59	145.22†	+ 0.03	5.67
Managed Fund	77.52	82.47†	− 0.10	2.85
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	50.61	53.84†	+ 0.22	1.83
-do- Accum	59.86	63.68†	+ 0.27	1.83
UK & General	95.88	102.00†	− 0.27	2.62
-do- Accum	124.46	132.40†	− 0.33	2.62
UK Growth	186.64	198.55†	+ 0.10	1.41
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	217.70	231.60†	− 0.53	0.60
Far Eastern Gth	147.67	157.10†	− 0.14	0.03
Global Bond	83.08	88.31†	− 0.12	5.61
Japan Growth	128.09	136.27†	+ 0.28	
North Amer Gth	234.30	249.26†	+ 0.48	
Oriental Growth	88.86	94.53†	− 0.02	0.28
Worldwide Growth	77.75	82.71†	+ 0.07	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.70	91.70†		5.39
Homemaker Fund	93.61	99.59	− 0.44	1.52
Quilter Fund	156.98	167.00	− 0.57	1.87

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	36.45	39.02		3.18

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	184.50	196.30†	+ 1.50	1.56
Income	72.03	76.62	− 0.34	4.90
European	74.78	79.55	− 0.15	0.57
Recovery	183.60	195.30†	+ 0.50	1.30

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	962.73	975.90		3.41

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Equities claw back early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	480	Allied Domecq	518	- 8	5.7	18.9
625	500	Bulmer (HP)	622		2.5	19.5
131	115	Burn Stewart	119		5.3	25.7
484	411	Grand Met	425	- 6½	4.3	18.7
483	435	Guinness	476	+ ½	3.9	15.5
369	315	Highland Dist	355		2.8	16.9
195	150	Macallan-Glenl	171		1.1	35.1
650	615	Macdn Mtn 'A'	633		2.2	17.6
767	655	Matthew Clark	764	- 1	3.6	
116	93	Merrydown W	115		2.2	
2612½	1912½	SA Breweries	1993½	- 112½	1.5	31.8

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3469¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3440¾	+ 62½	4.0	17.8
663	528	Abbey Natl	568	+ 5	4.8	10.9
385	322	Allied Irish	344	- 2	5.0	10.0
336	298	Aus New Z	320		5.4	
5747½	3843¾	Bank America	4926¼	- 62½		
316	236½	Bank Scotland	252	+ 1	3.5	11.8
819	683	Barclays	737½	- ½	4.4	9.6
498	422	Bk of Ireland	476	- 2	3.6	9.5
482	424	Cater Allen	441		8.5	7.5
5368¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5187½	- 68¾		
392	318	Close Bros	379	+ 1	3.0	16.8
£157¾	£142¾	Commerzbk	£143¼	- 187½	3.6	
1343¾	1171¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1343¾	+ 6¼	0.4	
3412½	2978¼	Deutsche Bk	3212½	- 12½	2.2	
796¼	583¾	Espirito Santo	733¾		4.6	10.4
1507	1265½	Fuji Bank Y	1453¾	+ 6¼	0.4	
472	398	Gerrard Nat	398		7.1	12.9
252	196	Hambros	246		3.9	
1125	949	HSBC	992½	- 6	4.0	10.6
1099	930	HSBC HK	965½	- 4½	4.1	10.5
421	385	Irish Perm	393		3.2	
165	143	King Shaxson	156		7.2	12.1
453	448	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
347½	294¼	Lloyds TSB	321½	+ 2	2.9	14.1
640	576	Nat Aust Bk	592		7.3	7.8
711	606	Nat West	619	- 5	5.1	8.7
66	58	Rea Brothers	58		2.2	27.5
596	483	Ryl Bk Scot	509	- 1	4.0	11.5
1380	1105	Schroders	1233	- 4	1.6	17.2
1128	890	Schroders N/V	982	+ 4	2.0	13.7
113	99½	Singer & Fried	107	+ 2	4.8	8.4
662½	547	Stand Chartt	620	+ 5	2.2	13.5
105	85½	Union	101		3.7	
£174½	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£163¼	- 106¼	2.1	
325¼	264	Westpac	325½	+ 1½	4.5	
305	268	Wintrust	300		4.9	17.2

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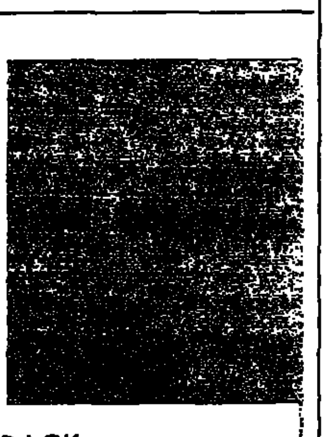

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Fierce rivalry has cleaned up the mobile phone market. **David Hewson** introduces a three-page report with a guide to the best deals

Cutting the jargon and the bills

Private consumers may be turning to mobile phones in ever greater numbers (despite several cellphone radiation scares, each of them instantly denied by the industry), but the market has changed a lot in the last year. It has matured.

Twelve months ago most people were baffled by the jargon and won over by cheap or even free handsets. The cost of joining the mobile phone revolution never seemed so low, until the bills arrived.

Today we are wiser, and the mobile phone networks know it. Eye-catching deals that disguise the real cost of ownership are disappearing. No one is fooled.

Much of the momentum for this change has come through the success of Orange, the all-digital network owned by Hutchison Telecom and British Aerospace. Launched in 1994, with a baffling name and a big advertising campaign, Orange had a slow beginning, but now has 500,000 subscribers. Vodafone and Cellnet are still bigger, but they have a decade's start on the newcomer and a backlog of older users hooked onto analogue systems. Mercury's One2One subsidiary also had a short start on Orange, but is probably now in fourth place, and some way behind on geographical coverage.

Over the years, we have been plagued by complex tariffs, with different rates for a variety of phone calls and services. New mobile users find it hard to predict their phone usage, making it almost impossible to choose with any great degree of accuracy the best airtime package. And if you get your sums wrong, changing to a better tariff could be expensive.

What Orange did was to ignore the idea of discounting handsets and concentrate on a bundled airtime deal. The handset will probably cost at least £50, depending on the model, but the airtime deal is straightforward and flexible. One of the most popular schemes, which costs £25 a month plus VAT, includes 60 minutes in calls, after which you pay a flat sum per second.

The success of Orange has persuaded Vodafone and Cellnet to follow suit with similar simple bundled tariffs, which for some users can work out cheaper for basic calls. Setting up phone networks is an expensive business. Nobody involved can afford to run at bargain-basement prices for long. Instead of embarking on a price war, networks are more likely to compete on bundled features than on the cost per call.

Choosing a mobile service is, happily, a lot simpler than it was a year ago. Most users now will opt for a digital system, rather than an old analogue one. The voice quality is normally better and the coverage is rapidly becoming comparable.

Beware of dubious coverage boasts, however. Some networks base them on the areas that can be reached by a high-powered, built-in carphone, not the portable handsets most of us use. So check, before you buy, that you really can get good reception in the places where you want to use your phone.

A largely hidden benefit of the digital system is its ability to send and receive data reliably. This means nothing to most domestic phone owners, although a growing number of business users plug their phones into notebooks or personal communicators to send and receive faxes and e-mail.

The biggest drawback to digital data is the cost of the card needed to plug into your PC, which is unlikely to be much below £500. But this will fall, and data services will also start to work directly on the screen of your phone, too.

The networks are quietly working on the idea of delivering e-mail, financial news and even cricket scores straight to your pocket. And when those services arrive, the rush into digital may turn into a flood.

Future phones may deliver e-mail, news and cricket scores

Making headlines: Orange cut tariffs with its digital phone costs

Dial M for mugger, MI5 and the drug merchants

Phone thefts fund drug rings and other crimes, says

Glen Owen

Although crime is still rife within the mobile phone industry, the Government seems reluctant to act. Despite occasional mutterings about legislation, the onus is on the networks and their customers to take action themselves.

It is estimated that 15,000 telephone handsets are being stolen every month. About 6,000 of these are then used to make calls and the costs charged to the loser's bill. Mobile phone crime costs the industry more than £100 million a year, and is said by the police to encourage muggings and support other criminal activities, such as drug dealing. But as long as most phones remain non-digital, life will be easy for the crooks; unencrypted identities can easily be altered.

The Duke of Edinburgh was the most recent royal to discover that analogue phones are far from snoop-proof, and the same off-the-shelf scanner, which recorded his private conversation with a woman in February, can also gather a phone's serial number and code. This identity can be transferred to a stolen mobile, which then operates at the expense of the "cloned" user. Last year saw a 400 per cent increase in cloning, at a cost to the industry of more than £20 million.

If the networks detect unusual activity on a subscriber's account, they will cut off the service; the first the customer will know of this is when his handset fails to respond. However, as Bob Tomalski, editor of *What Cellphone* observes: "This only applies if the crook uses the phone in a significantly different way from his victim. If the customer usually makes a lot of different calls, then it is harder for the networks to detect it."

Mobiles: a thieves' paradise

Aware of the problem, the Department of Trade and Industry set up a study group, which reported last October and suggested, amid a flurry of publicity, that the possession of scanning equipment be criminalised. The Government has seemed reluctant to act. Mr Tomalski calls this non-action: "An utter sham, designed to give the impression that they care while they do absolutely nothing." However, a spokesman for the DTI says: "We are keen to get to grips with the problem, but there are many, perfectly harmless users of the equipment, such as radio hams, and we need to be sure we won't criminalise them".

Instead, the industry is having to put its own house in order. In an attempt to defeat cloning, Vodafone recently introduced the "authentification" system; once a PIN number has been entered into a suitably equipped phone its electronic identity is permanently encrypted, a move that Chris Gent, the company's managing director, calls "a major step forward in the fight against the mobile phone criminal".

Steve Gold, the news editor of *Mobile Fraud and Security International*, is not so sure. "Authentification is a good system, but it has come rather too late. It is not the case that they can throw a switch and everyone will be protected — only about a third of Vodafone's customers can benefit without upgrading their equipment." He says that such moves stem from the increased competition. "Until now, the networks seem to have viewed fraud as an acceptable cost to bear, but as margins fall more and more of these measures are being taken."

In February, the industry launched its most concerted effort yet — a £1 million crime prevention scheme that employs "Swat-style" teams of inspectors to check that dealers are not reconnecting stolen phones on the sly. According to the industry body, the Federation of Communication Services, these inspectors have since found five suspect dealers, who risk losing the trade of the other members in the the industry. But it remains to be seen to what extent six inspectors can successfully monitor 10,000 dealers.

Mr Gold observes this self-regulation with interest. "They have to do this because the Government thinks that the networks should have taken measures earlier, when mobiles were launched here in 1985. It was already known from the American trials that cloning would be a problem."

Mr Gold says that even the digital networks are threatened by fraud. Despite the claims of invulnerability, digigal encryptions were cracked 18 months ago by Italian hackers, and have since been used by government intelligence services, including MI5. "Anyone with the right hardware and expertise can decipher the digital codes, but it is still more secure because eavesdroppers can't just buy a scanner off the shelf and whizz around the airways. They have to have a specific target in mind."

To counter the threat to digital, including that posed by subscription fraud (signing up to a service in somebody else's name), the Orange network has its own team of professional investigators, with the manpower and resources to follow up intelligence from the "anorak" community and the option of carrying a case right through to prosecution.

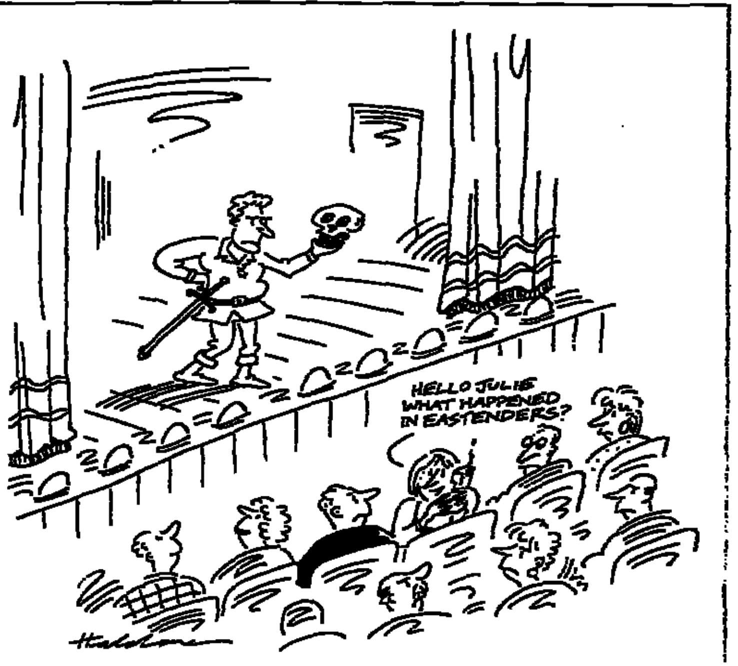
The police emphasise that much of this crime is due to the carelessness of the owners, who frequently leave handsets on trains, or temptingly on show in their parked cars. They say that even simple measures, such as marking the phones with an ultraviolet pen, would help to track down the crooks.

Can you hear me? I'm at the theatre . . .

Lovers may love them — but when does a mobile phone call become downright indecent? Should you take one, for example, to church? Or to the opera, theatre or cinema?

Earlier this year Lord Lichfield banned mobile phones from his pheasant shoots. "Frightfully bad manners," he said. Later, after a House of Lords debate on the subject, mobile phones were banned from some Great Western carriages. Recently, the Israeli Army also ordered its conscripts not to carry them when they went in action.

For those in doubt, Cellnet's booklet *Mobile Manners: A Guide to Mobile Etiquette in the '90s*, from which the cartoon, right, is taken, may be useful. Ring 0800 424323. More cartoons on page 34.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Booked by a digital PC

Police are using personal digital notepads in the fight against car thieves. **David Hewson** reports

Techno-literate car thieves who laughed at the ill-fated launch of Apple's Newton personal digital assistant (PDA) should steer clear of Derbyshire. About 25 Newtons are now on patrol there in the hands of the local police.

The PDAs plug straight into a digital mobile phone and will dial through to the national police computer network, which has the registration numbers of suspect cars. Faster than the average personal computer can connect to a conventional dial-up network, the Newtons will flash back the name of the owner and whether the vehicle has been reported stolen.

Before long it could be doing the same with descriptions of suspects, or even photographs, as part of a national portable information network based on a marriage of PDAs and digital phones.

Most of us remember the Newton as an idea that was met with ridicule because of the shaky way the little device tried, and usually failed, to interpret your handwriting. But it has been growing in stature over the past year, and Britain is proving a remarkably fertile place for it to thrive since we have some of the best-developed digital phone networks in the world.

For technical reasons, data is difficult and unreliable on old-fashioned analogue mobile-phone networks. On digital, its natural format, electronic data is faster and more reliable, with speeds of 9,600 bits per second, equivalent to a low to mid-range PC modem. These are early days for PDAs, however, and no one is quite sure exactly what kind of device different markets require. What suits a corporate business user, dialling into a sales database, is unlikely to appeal to the consumer who just wants to keep check on share prices and messages.

A very popular PDA is the Psion Organiser, which takes a conventional approach to portable information. It is essentially a small computer, with a tiny screen and keyboard and built-in writing, financial and communications applications.

You can share information on the Psion with your desktop PC, then take it on the road in your pocket. Like almost all new portable devices launched by manufacturers ranging from Hewlett-Packard to Sharp, the Psion has what is known as a PC card slot. This can run a variety of removable devices, from storage cards to the digital data card needed to link your PDA to your phone.

You can pay from £300 upwards for the Psion, and another hundred pounds for the Newton. One of the cheapest devices is the Hewlett-Packard OmniGo 100, which can be found for less than £300. Later this year, Hewlett-Packard will launch a more upmarket model, the OmniGo 700, which fits directly onto a Nokia GSM phone, without the need for a data card, but it is expected to retail at a hefty £850 or so, plus VAT.

Perhaps the most difficult task in choosing a PDA for mobile communications is judging the software. Some is, frankly, rather poor and too technically demanding for the lay user. Apple found that a big drawback of the original Newton was its communications software. It has been rewritten for the latest version of the Newton operating system, which was released to acclaim at the end of last year.

Now, you can send and receive faxes very easily, and there is a growing library of applications that will fetch your e-mail from a variety of networks, including CompuServe and the Internet. You can even plug in a full-size keyboard and use your Newton as a computer.

Whichever PDA catches your eye, do add up the extras. You may need extra software for communication, managing contacts and appointments. Most users will also need to synchronise information between a desktop PC and PDA.

Again, the quality varies, so shop around, see it in action, and accept that the PDA-wielding road warrior is a pioneer in these digital waters. Whatever you buy today will look a little dated a year hence, but you can have a lot of fun and value out of your purchase in the meantime.

Police are using PDAs to check the numberplates of cars they suspect are stolen

How to ensure that you can be reached anywhere

Call for personal numbers

Mobile phones have long given us the possibility of having one telephone number, regardless of which telephone we use. But a mobile is more expensive, there may be reception problems and some batteries won't cope with heavy use. So *mobiles are usually turned* on only when their owners do not have access to stationary and cheaper telephones.

According to the companies selling them, the answer is a single phone number that can be switched automatically, using a PIN number on a touch telephone, from phone to phone. The system can also be set up automatically, sending calls made to a personal number to different phones as needed.

Personal numbers are also being sold as "lifetime" numbers, where people moving house or businesses moving premises no longer need to change their telephone number. This started to become a reality after the changes made on Phoneday, which allowed Oftel to release a new 07 prefix for personal numbering. Vodafone, for example, acquired the rights to the prefix 07000, and Flextel offers a similar service.

However, this system also costs more money. Subscribers to 07000 numbers pay £120 to buy the number, plus £3 a month. Possibly more daunting is that callers to the number have to pay higher call charges: 14p a minute during peak times and 8p a minute off peak. Long-distance charges made to an ordinary telephone number are 8p a minute peak rate, 5p a minute off peak and only 1p a minute for BT local off-peak calls.

If a personal number call is diverted to a mobile or, as will soon be possible, to a phone in another country, the subscriber again pays extra. The predictions are that these personal number charges could drop, but for the moment many will balk at the rates.

For companies, a personal number does not need to be attached to an individual. Customer service operations, for example, can automatically have calls switched between different employees at preset times.

Because personal numbers use different prefixes, a whole range of new numbers are available. Businesses are moving in on the possibilities of having a memorable 'number and, with the restoration of letters on modern phones, the ability to use words as well.

Geremy Thomas is managing director of The Personal Number Company, one of three that is selling numbers using Vodafone's 07000 prefix. He says six out of ten numbers are specially chosen, and a quarter of those people are interested in the words that the numbers can make. Such numbers come at a premium though. Mr Thomas charges a £350 connection fee and £450 annual subscription for what his company calls platinum numbers. Super-platinum numbers, such as the recently sold 07000 MORTGAGE, are by negotiation only.

MATTHEW MAY

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Will consumers win in the so-called price battle? **Annie Turner** examines Cellnet and Vodafone's plans to put the squeeze on Orange

Real price cuts — or just a phoney war?

Initially an expensive business tool, cellular telephony is now becoming a mass-market commodity and consumers should benefit from a price war between network operators.

Cellnet and Vodafone plan to ape Orange's per-second billing and to include "free" airtime minutes in monthly subscription charges for digital services. For those who subscribe to the price-war theory, these are viewed as the first salvoes, fired in response to Orange's surprising the market by attracting 50,000 new subscribers in December, double that achieved by Vodafone and 10,000 ahead of Cellnet. It seems that Vodafone rather than Cellnet is losing customers to Orange. And the defecting subscribers tend to be the higher-spending ones. In September 1993, when Mercury launched its digital service, One2One, Vodafone accounted for almost 55 per cent of the market and Cellnet for 45 per cent. At the end of March, Vodafone's market share is the same as that of Cellnet at around 42 per cent. Orange now holds 8 per cent and has the fastest growth rate. After a spectacular start with free local calls offered, One2One has 8 per cent, despite launching seven months before Orange in September 1993.

Even so, industry analysts do not regard Vodafone's — or Cellnet's — actions as the start of a price war so much as a gesture to apparent public preferences, designed to maintain their high profit margins. The industry calls Vodafone's new pricing scheme "the Orange squeezer".

Martin Garner, managing consultant for mobile communications with Ovum, a London company, says that Cellnet and Vodafone "will be watching the next few months very carefully, and if Vodafone finds its move has not been successful in stemming the move to Orange, it will have grounds for concern". But he notes that the two have not tried to undercut Orange (or One2One) but have adopted lookalike service offerings.

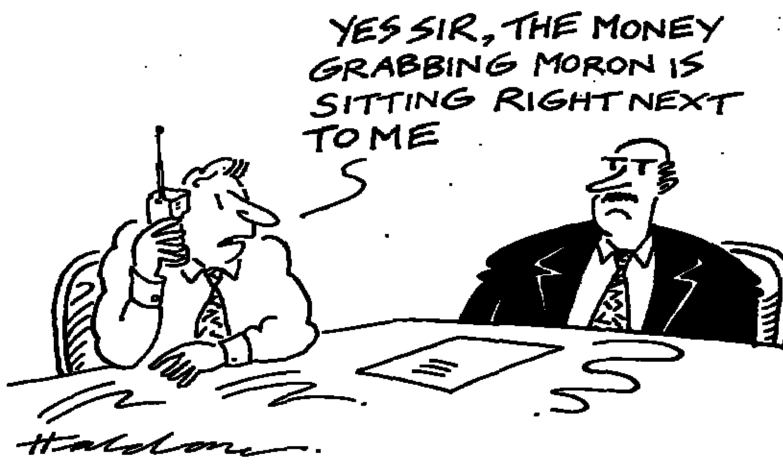
Cellnet's scheme promises reductions of up to 30 per cent on bills; Vodafone launched two new packages on April 1. The two's schemes might not be radical enough. Adam Zoldan, Dataquest's personal communications industry analyst, says: "Many new subscribers were attracted by free connection, no line rental and subsidised handsets, only to receive their first bill which was three times the cost of the phone and they signed off." Towards the end of last year, Mr Zoldan adds, consumers realised there was no such thing as a free phone, so there was a surge towards Orange, which had always put the realistic costs of running a service ahead of heavily discounting the original cost of the phone, giving the user a good idea of what the bill would be.

However, it seems there are reasons other than price. The Consumer's Association's *Consumer Policy Review* found that "disillusion and dissatisfaction among mobile-phone users are rife, with almost three-quarters (74 per cent) experiencing problems. Almost four out of ten would hand back their mobile, change tariff or move network tomorrow, if they weren't bound to pay a financial penalty to the service-provider."

The report concluded that "among mobile-phone users, the unhappiest are Mercury One2One clients and those connected to the Vodafone analogue network".

Areas in which Orange scores better include providing itemised telephone bills as standard and 12 months free insurance on every phone.

The real issues are hidden costs, weasel wording on contracts, excessively high call charges, cancellation penalties, failure to offer trial periods, and misleading advice from those more interested in commission than the customer.


YES SIR, THE MONEY GRABBING MORON IS SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO ME

Take a library wherever you go

Jane Bird on sending and receiving data by phone

Jan Schiefer, an engineer at Hewlett-Packard's research laboratory in Bristol, spends a lot of time away from his office. Thanks to his mobile phone, however, he does not fall behind with his e-mail or market data.

Mr Schiefer uses the phone in combination with a portable computer to log in to his office workstation, download e-mail and surf the Internet. "I can dial the World Wide Web to get the latest research information or market surveys," he says. "It's like having a library with you wherever you go." The only drawback, he says, is that the Internet connection can take a minute or two.

More and more people are using mobile phones for data communication as well as voice, transmitting everything from e-mail and faxes to spreadsheets, word-processing files, graphics and slide presentations. The Mobile Data Association believes that 100,000 people will begin using mobile data this year.

One reason for the recent growth is that digital systems, such as PCN and GSM, have become reliable enough for data. Another attraction is price. Short Messaging Services (SMS), for example, allows you to send a few words to mobile handsets for a few pence. Doing the same thing on a mobile voice-mail service costs at least 50p by the time the caller has paid to leave the message and the recipient has paid to collect it.

Using a portable computer with a mobile phone is rather more expensive because you have to buy a £500 card to go into your computer. "It might take you five minutes to convey 500 or 1,000 words in speech," Kevin Farquharson, principal consultant at Mobile Business Systems, a London-based consultancy specialising in mobile data, says. "With fax or e-mail you could send the same information ten to 50 times faster." An A4 page takes one second to transmit.

The other main reason for mobile data's popularity is that businesses are beginning to use it for a host of applications such as order-processing, human resources, time-reporting and the tracking of service or delivery staff. Many organisations are now giving staff a mobile phone and a data card for their portable computer. If the member of staff moves house or resigns, the equipment can be moved or returned.

Businesses that want mobile data do have another option — they can buy a device that works exclusively for data. These have been around for some years and tend to be used by organisations that have a large number of field staff, such as engineering services companies or couriers. Andy Bird, managing director of Securicor Datatrak, which provides a data-only service, says it can be more cost-effective than combined voice and data because staff can't run up huge phone bills. "Around 80 per cent of calls to service engineers, for example, are to find out where they are and what they are doing," Mr Bird says. "Using voice for this kind of thing often means having a 15-minute conversation of which one minute is answering the questions and the rest is about football."

However, mobile phone network providers believe customers want more than data. "People don't just want to send files, faxes and text messages," says Graham Oxby, head of product marketing at Orange. "They also want to talk about what they've sent. They might want to confirm receipt, discuss the subject matter or get some sort of spoken response. Such people don't want to be forced to choose between data and voice. They want both."

On call for business or pleasure . . .

On duty: Pimlico Plumbers, above, use Mercury One2One mobile phones to improve their efficiency and to communicate with customers and suppliers. Off duty: the new pocket NEC Foldfone, below, costs £99

How many extras does a phone need?

Annie Turner on what manufacturers plan next

Smart phones — who needs them? On the face of it, mobile phones have much in common with home video recorders. Most of the adult population can exploit only their most basic functions and are baffled by the ever-increasing range of features.

These embrace everything from a choice of ringing tones (including a few bars of well-known tunes) to bright colours, in-built clocks and calculators, vibration mode for those who wish to be alerted to their phone ringing silently, electronic address books and the option of using them in conjunction with a computer to send and receive faxes and electronic mail. The question is, does anyone want these features?

Adam Zoldan, industry analyst for personal communications at Dataquest Europe, says: "Until now our research shows that the choice of phone has been based on price, not features." However, he feels it is far more healthy — and a sign of a maturing market — for people to be willing to pay a fair price for a phone up front and then pay service charges they can afford.

Keith Westcott, director of mobile phones at manufacturer Ericsson UK, says his company frequently has to deal with irate customers who are baffled to find that a battery costs several times what they paid for the phone.

Alison Brolls, head of marketing at Nokia Mobile Phones (UK) Sales, says: "Customers' needs vary. Some might want a straightforward, cheap phone, but there are people who want all types of features built-in. The common factor that must apply to them all is simplicity of use."

Also, unlike video recorders, mobile phones are personal and this is fuelling a whole sub-industry in accessories. They fall into three categories: those to do with power supply such as batteries and battery chargers; add-ons for using the phone in the car; and those to do with image such as carrying cases, coloured covers and so on.

Mr Westcott says: "Phone users are changing. Younger users want more features. They grew up with personal computers, are not intimidated by technology and enjoy getting the most they can out of any personal device."

There is evidence to suggest that instead of concentrating on more advanced or individual features, manufacturers should concentrate on more fundamental issues. In February, the Consumers' Association published the findings of an extensive survey of mobile users in the UK in the *Consumer Policy Review*. It found that 12 per cent of respondents had had to repair new phones during the past year (unrelated to accidents or misuse), while a further 16 per cent reported that they had needed to pay for repairs to phones that were two, three and four years old.

Battery life is another weakness and something that all manufacturers are constantly trying to improve. At the end of February Nokia launched the £79 1610 digital phone for use on GSM networks which provides up to seven hours of air time and 200 hours (eight days) of standby time. This is way beyond the capacity of anything else on the market.

Motorola's StarTac phone will be available in the UK later in the year; without any accessories it weighs only 3oz and can fit into a jeans' pocket. With the main and auxiliary batteries combined, it offers up to four hours of talk time and 47 hours on standby.

Ericsson's top-of-the-range GSM phone, the GH388, was launched in March and can provide almost five hours of talk time and 80 hours of standby. It can be linked to a portable computer to send e-mail and other data at 9.6kbit/s.

The aim of all manufacturers used to be to produce an ever smaller phone, but optimal small size and weight have been achieved: for example Motorola's StarTac or Sony's phone that folds up to be the same size as a pager.

Martin Garner, managing consultant with London-based Ovum, says: "In the end, the cellular market will be like that for watches today, where you can pay a fiver for one from a garage forecourt or thousands of pounds for a Rolex, depending on what you need and can afford."

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TELEADAPT AT HOME ABROAD

هديا من الاهل

■ OPERA

Graham Vick produces a minor miracle for ENO: a convincing *Fidelio* staging

■ MUSIC

Shaping the course of 20th-century composition: Paul Sacher, *modern* music's great patron, turns 90

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MAGIC

Penn and Teller brush up their tricks and their rude humour for a season at Sadler's Wells

■ TOMORROW

How the tuneful duo, Everything But The Girl, found fame and a new sound at the cutting-edge

The simple truth is, it's perfect

OPERA

Fidelio
Coliseum

DONALD COOPER

(From left): Kathryn Harries, Gwynne Howell and Mary Plazas in English National Opera's "truthful and moving" modern-dress *Fidelio*

Beethoven's only opera may be *one of the soaring* peaks in the 400-year history of the genre, *but it is* hideously difficult to bring off in the theatre: the last two Covent Garden productions fell as wide of the mark as the previous one at the Coliseum. But Graham Vick's new staging for English National Opera hits the nail bang on the head time after time and is, along with Peter Hall's Glyndebourne version, one of the most truthful and moving I have seen.

Vick and the conductor Richard *Hickox approach* the piece for what it is, not for what it has become — especially, since the Second World War, the opportunity for some kind of grand, breast-beating "statement" (for grand, read shallow). But *Fidelio*'s roots are firmly in French *opéra comique*, and it celebrates simple human truths and aspirations. Hickox's brisk speeds for Marzelline's and Jaquino's opening numbers and Vick's sprightly, near-sitcom direction, with Mary *Plazas* confiding in the audience and Philip Sheffield singing fearsome stage cockney, remind us that we are among very ordinary *people, who just happen to run a* prison.

When the extraordinary *starts to* happen with Fidelio's entrance, Hickox's gentle, flowing tempo for the canon quartet scarcely breaks the domestic mood, which the traditional Mahler-adagio approach always does. We slip back to Uncle Rocco's very modern-sounding Gold aria without a hitch. Throughout, Hickox's conducting is the very antithesis of the Furtwängler-Klemperer tradition, lyrical, fleet and human in scale, so that when the big moments come their effect is redoubled. Beethoven's musical journey from the commonplace to the epic is faithfully charted.

David Pountney's jauntily demotic new translation is all part of the concept: the syntax is as everyday as Paul Brown's contemporary costumes, with warders' uniforms familiar from countless prison movies and the white puttees for the marines striking a more transatlantic note. (The huge cross on which the action is set may be deconstructed according to taste.) *Pizarro is no* leather-coated fascist monster, but a civil servant in pinstripe trousers, so very ordinary *and hence so very* frightening. We are *here and now, and* any danger of conflict between the present day and the potential fustian of the text is avoided by the speed with which Vick directs the dialogue, and the total conviction he has inspired in the cast. All on stage believe in what they are doing, and so does the audience.

Of course, any *Fidelio stands* or falls by its protagonist, and with Kathryn Harries it not only stands but soars into the stratosphere. Her mezzo-ish instrument does not find the upper reaches of the role easy — *many top notes emerge as an act of* will — but she turns this to *advantage; the very effort required* is part of her characterisation, for this Leonore is not the traditional amazon Valkyrie capable of gobbling up four prison governors before breakfast, but a vulnerable woman constantly aware of the danger she is in, constantly having to steel herelf to her task.

She made much of that great turning point in the second-act trio when Leonore determines to rescue the prisoner even before she knows it is her husband, the moment when the particular becomes the universal — all part of Beethoven's scheme. She phrases the gentler music with innate warmth, and in general suggests that Leonore's natural goodness and unselfishness are the human norm rather than the time-serving ordinariness of all around her.

Anthony Rolfe Johnson sings Florestan with Mozartian grace *and near-Wagnerian fullness of* tone — perfect. Peter Sidhom's *ranting* Pizarro *and* John Connell's Sarastro-like Minister are excellent. Gwynne Howell's bustling, sly Rocco, reeking of false bonhomie and with eyes firmly on the main chance, is one of the best things this fine artist has done.

A well-intentioned but horrible dumbshow in the overture is the only flaw in this marvellous staging — please cut it.

RODNEY MILNES

Paying and playing its way

CONCERT

Budapest FO / Fischer
Barbican

THE Budapest Festival Orchestra, first off the mark when private funding and administration became *de rigueur* in post-subsidy *Hungary, goes from strength to* strength and is now arguably the *country's leading orchestra.*

As early as 1983, when the players were drawn together by Ivan Fischer and Zoltan Kocsis, the emphasis was on chamber-musical preparation, section by section. Now the players include members of the Kodaly and Eder Quartets, of the Budapest Wind Ensemble and, in the leader's chair, Gabor Takacs, late of the eponymous quartet.

The stark abstraction of Mahler's Sixth Symphony showed the discipline of ensemble and the *wisdom of Ivan Fischer.* He is maturing as a conductor of large-scale repertoire, and this performance was one of the most cogent I have ever heard from him.

Despite the symphony's extreme subject-matter (death, plain and simple), it resisted extremes. Fischer chose instead to concentrate detail in the fragile trios, each one drawn into a different level of relief, with the violins, antiphonally placed, distancing the sound as if from another world. But the unremitting darkness of its vision was powerfully sculpted *in* a well-paced opening march, hard-edged *by percussion and biting* angrily at each incisive entry.

By the final *march, momentum* was inexorable: this vast body of players *moved* with indefatigable impetus towards those two great hammer-blows. Nothing could follow an act like that; but *Tasso, Lamento e Trionfo* by Budapest's own Franz Liszt, had started the evening in a version which contained the composer's final 1854 corrections to a work which had begun as an overture to Goethe's great play.

HILARY FINCH

MAGIC

Trick and treat

Penn and Teller
Sadler's Wells

YOU have probably seen these guys on the box. Penn and Teller are the American double act who have injected sick humour into hackneyed conjuring tricks. They hover somewhere between stand-up, magic and the Archaos theory of *entertainment.*

Penn is the gigantic, garrulous one with the *joke-sadistic tendencies*. He drags out a mock-disastrous card trick while his tiny, silent sidekick Teller apparently drowns quietly in a water tank.

This is the first time the so-called gruesome twosome have performed live in this country. Their show, warmly received at Sadler's Wells, has been extended to May 4. Spurts of fake blood get big laughs and "yeuchs" from the *audience* when a white rabbit is (only *seemingly, of course) dropped* into an industrial shredder.

There are *many surprises* and amusing flashes in the course of the evening. Teller swallows needles, then chews on a length of cotton and disgorges the lot miraculously threaded together. As Penn juggles jagged broken bottles, you feel the thrill of simultaneous nerves and admiration. Elsewhere the duo share their trade secrets, replaying in slow motion sleights of hand with a lit cigarette, yet still keeping mystifying tricks up their sleeves.

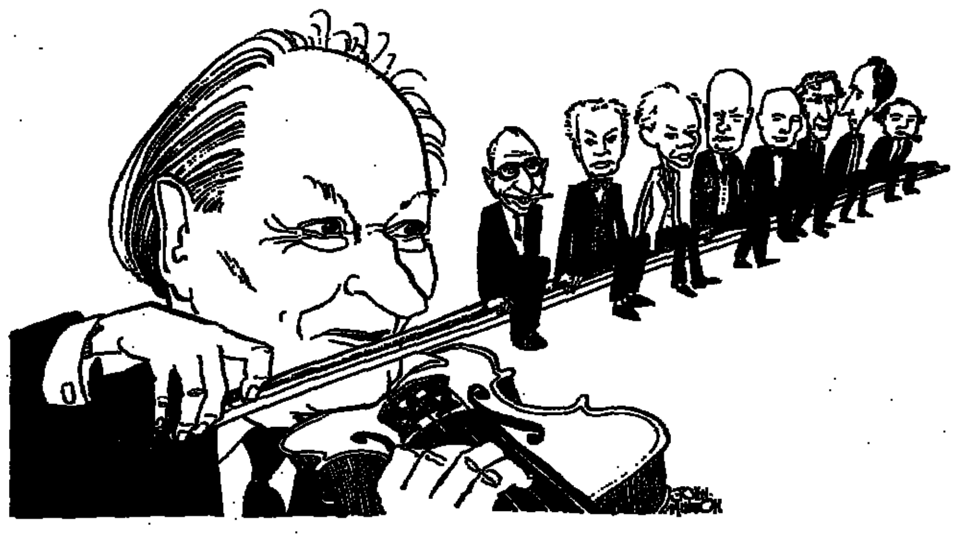
But if shocking anarchy is the game, this show is quite tame. *Penn and Teller are rather sweet at* heart. They also cherish their art, *tantalising you with levitation*, rounding off with fire-breathing.

The more theatrical vignettes are the most thought-provoking. Teller takes a knife to the shadow of a rose and as he stabs, the petals of the real flower fall. On a park bench, a talkative tourist finds himself alarmingly handcuffed to a strange, morbidly unresponsive man. Only when the struggle turns into a hug do the cuffs magically unlock by themselves.

KATE BASSETT

One of the century's most influential patrons is entering his tenth decade

High commissioner of music



On Sunday, Paul Sacher, the Swiss conductor and arts patron, celebrates his ninetieth birthday. Since 1926, Sacher has commissioned more than 200 compositions, which *makes* his patronage of 20th-century classical music unrivalled. *What makes Sacher's* contribution as a music patron *unique, however, is the degree* to which his own musical *tastes* and *accomplishments* have influenced the shape of classical music in our century.

Perhaps the most important aspect of Sacher's influence is the dominance of the strings in the works which he commissioned. When he created the Basle Chamber Orchestra in 1926, it was an ensemble based on its string sections.

It was with this ensemble and, after 1941, its Zurich *counterpart, the* Collegium Musicum Zurich, that commissioned works were to be given their world premieres. Although the musicians from whom he commissioned were "free" in terms of deadlines and styles, they were composing, almost always, for his strings. "I gave them as much freedom as possible," Sacher explained, "but *they had to* know something about my orchestra."

Similarly, Sacher's dislikes *played* an influential role. There was, for instance, his earlier aversion to the piano. "I never played or learnt the piano — I found it a dreadful instrument," Sacher later admitted. "I much preferred the sound of *the* organ *or the* harpsichord." The strength of this preference is evidenced by his persuading Frank Martin to include the harpsichord in his *Petite Symphonie Concertante*, a Sacher commission written in 1944-45.

Music with a strong rhythmic element lay at the heart of Sacher's aesthetic preference. It was one of the major criteria which attracted him to, or turned him away *from,* the work of individual composers. In the 1920s this drew *him* to the work of Paul Hindemith, the "bad boy" *of contemporary* music, and later to composers such as *Bartók and* Stravinsky. It also led to his never *giving commissions* to Schoenberg, Berg or Webern.

Criticised in his later years for this *neglect,* Sacher testily retorted: "I'm not the radio. I don't have to be fair. I took what I felt was the best for me and my orchestra."

Sometimes, though, the influence was more mundane than musical. Occasionally Sacher would request compositions of *specific* length or nature to fill in a gap or to complete *one of his* programmes. His *1965 commission* for his Basle Chamber Orchestra of Conrad Beck's *Hommages*, two pieces for orchestra, was accompanied by a *request in a letter* that the work should be approximately 15 minutes in length so that it would be suitable to begin a programme of longer works by Henze and Stravinsky.

In addition to *these musical* considerations, personal elements also *shaped the compositions.* Sacher sometimes *created intense* relationships with composers, often involving *material* support and proximity. Honegger and Martinu were both long-term house guests at Schoenenberg, Sacher's Basle country estate, and Bartók composed his *Divertimento for String Orchestra* (1939) in Sacher's holiday chalet in Saanen.

Sacher's vast network of contacts and resources also had a synergistic influence on compositions. Sometimes these influences were personal, as when Sacher's introduction of Anne-Sophie Mutter to Witold Lutoslawski at a dinner party at Schoenenberg led Lutoslawski to request that *his* work *Chain 2* (dedicated to Sacher) be premiered by her. Sometimes the influences were academic. *The creation of the* Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in 1933 sparked the use of material from early music in contemporary compositions, as evidenced by the works of Sven-Erik Back.

Lastly, there were the advantages provided by Sacher's vast personal wealth. After his marriage in 1934 to the Hoffmann-*La Roche* heiress Maja Hoffmann-Stehlin, Sacher was able *to privatise* his Basle Chamber Orchestra, thereby ensuring its continued existence. He was then also able to offer composers commission fees. Later, as fees skyrocketed, he could seek composers competitively, at the same time generously supporting his friends and those in need. For instance, in 1945, Sacher received a phone call from Dr Willi Schuh, a close personal friend of Richard Strauss, telling him that the maestro had arrived in Switzerland depressed and impoverished. When Schuh requested that Sacher offer Strauss a commission, Sacher gave him one. Strauss gave him, in turn, his *Metamorphosen*.

As Sacher enters his *ninety-first year*, by appearing as a guest conductor and giving lectures around the world, his *influence on the music of his* century continues. He *remains* active in the pursuit of commissions. Perhaps most importantly, he has created the Paul Sacher Foundation in Basle, where composers, scholars and musicians can interact with the musical material of the 20th century, either to understand better *what has* gone before, or *to* inspire music yet to come.

Despite the success of the foundation, however, many would consider Sacher's crowning achievement to be the celebration of the music itself. Beginning in 1924, he introduced and promoted contemporary music *to the public* at a time when it was generally *scorned.* He *created and* inspired the renewal of early *music.* He *personally brought* about the creation of hundreds of works in the classical repertoire.

Many would see these actions as befitting some grand scheme, but for Sacher it was always much simpler than that: "As far as a man can think in the future, I did what I thought necessary, and what was possible for me."

> ❛ I don't have to be fair. I took what was best for my orchestra ❜

LESLEY STEPHENSON

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The Birtwistle festival continues with a London Sinfonietta concert

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* comes to the National

VENUE: Previews begin tonight at the Lyttelton

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Janet Suzman directs Rattigan's *The Deep Blue Sea* in Mold

VENUE: In preview at the Theatr Clwyd

■ THEATRE

Mistakes of the union? Sir Peter Hall lashes Equity for dictating who can appear on stage

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

BIRTWISTLE TO BRAHMS The Harrison Birtwistle Retrospective continues at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tonight (7.45pm). Markus Stenz conducts the **London Sinfonietta** in two of the composer's best-known scores — *Ritual Fragment* and *Verses for Ensembles*. The highlight of the evening promises to be the premiere of *Slow Frieze*, a specially commissioned work for (and performed by) the pianist Joanna MacGregor. On Saturday (7.30pm) the **SWF Symphony Orchestra** of Baden-Baden makes its London debut at the Festival Hall. Michael Gielen, the orchestra's chief conductor, leads it in Brahms's Violin Concerto (soloist Christian Tetzlaff) and Schubert's Symphony No 9, *Great*. **South Bank**, SE1 (0171-960 4242) ♿

BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS Dennis Potter's intensely poignant drama of childhood, set in 1943 and performed (his master-stroke) by adults. Patrick Marber directs. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens May 2. Then in rep ♿

MALCOLM ARNOLD On Sunday the pianist John Lill joins the conductor Richard Hickox — a staunch advocate of Arnold's work — and the London Symphony Orchestra in a concert to mark the composer's 75th birthday. The programme includes his uplifting suite from *The Sound Barrier* and closes with the intense Symphony No 5. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). 7.30pm. ♿

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: Günther Herbig is the guest conductor for tomorrow's **BBC Philharmonic** concert. The programme includes Mozart's Symphony No 36, *Linz*, and Bruckner's melodic Seventh Symphony. **Free Trade Hall**, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Saturday, 7.30pm. ♿

MOLD First night of previews for Theatr Clwyd Company's production of **The Deep Blue Sea**. Janet Suzman directs Terence Rattigan's compelling play of human relationships. **Theatr Clwyd** (01352 755114). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm (Sat 8pm). Opens Apr 30, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat 8pm. In rep until May 25 ♿

SALISBURY Jonathan Church revives **The Rover**, Mrs Aphra Behn's rollicking drama, written during the reign of Charles II but set in Naples during Cromwell's rule. Robert Bathurst and Sarah Jane Holm play rover and courtesan. **The Rover (Part 2): The Banished Cavaliers**, unperformed since 1681. In repertoire from May 15. **Playhouse**, Malthouse Lane (01722 320117). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Apr 29, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat 8pm; mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm. Until May 25. ♿

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: First night for **The White Devil**, Webster's Jacobean tragedy of (what else?) passion, revenge and blood. With Jane Gurnett as the vigorous but doomed Vittoria. Gale Edwards directs. **Swan**, Waterside (01789 295623). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat 1.30pm. In rep from May 8 with Peter Whelan's *The Herbal Bed*.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Contemporary Print Show: Part 2 (0171-638 4141) ... **Courtauld**: Thomas Gainsborough (071-873 2526) ... **Hayward**: Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) ... **Llewellyn Alexander Gallery**: A Million Brush-strokes IV (0171-620 1322) ... **National Gallery**: Picasso's Portrait of Angel Fernández de Soto (0171-747 2885) ... **National Portrait Gallery**: Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055) ... **Royal Academy**: Gustave Caillebotte (0171-439 7438) ... **Tate**: Cézanne, Bill Woodrow's statues (0171-887 8000) ... **V & A**: The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **CLOCKS AND WHISTLES**: Excellent performances in Samuel Adamson's first play, and Dominic Dromgoole's last production as artistic director: young chap confused by cross-gender disloyalties in his gay-bi-straight London world. Final week. **Bush**, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm

□ **ELVIS** Spirited revival of the 20-year-old tribute show: P J Proby plays the Vegas Elvis and Tim Whitnall plays the Pelvis in his prime. Positively no emphasis on the late-night gorging on peanut butter and jello torpedoes. **Prince of Wales**, Coventry Street W1 (0171-839 5972). Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 5.30 and 8.30pm

■ **EMILIA GALOTTI** Princely seduction, courtly cynicism and death before dishonour in Trilogy Co's attractive Fringe version of Lessing's 1772 drama. Last week. **Courtyard**, 10 York Way, Kings Cross, N1 (0171-833 0870). Tue-Sun, 8pm ♿

□ **ENDGAME** Riveting performances by Alun Armstrong and Stephen Dillane, hammering at each other in Katie Mitchell's production of middle-period Beckett. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham St WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat 4pm. Until May 25 ♿

□ ***MIND MILLIE FOR ME*** Latest version of Feydeau's classic farce *Occupe-toi d'Amélie*. Peter Hall directs a splendid cast led by Felicity Kendal. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Now previewing, 7.45pm, mats Wed, Sat 3pm. Opens May 7, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat 3pm ♿

◩ **SALAD DAYS** Welcome return of Julian Slade's tuneful musical, directed by Ned Sherrin. Nicola Fulljames and Simon Connolly play the young lovers in a company that also includes Kit and the Widow. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm

□ **THE SHATTERED VESSEL** Kleist's comedy, about a broken jug, given an energetic but visually thin interpretation. **Riverside Studios**, Crisp Rd, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2251). Tue-Thurs, Sat and Sun 7.45pm, Fri 8.15pm. Until May 12

□ **TOLSTOY** Oscar-winning F. Murray Abraham (Salieri in *Amadeus*) plays the complicated novelist and Gemma Jones his infuriated wife, clawing at each other in James Goldman's play about their curdled marriage. Tony Award-winner Jack Hofsiss directs. **Aldwych**, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Now previewing, 7.45pm; mat Sat 3pm. Opens Apr 30, 7pm. Mon-Sat 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat 3pm.

□ **TWELVE ANGRY MEN** Kevin Whately, Timothy West, Peter Vaughan and nine excellent others in Reginald Rose's justly celebrated jury-room drama. **Comedy**, Panton Street SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed 2.30pm and Sat 4pm

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) □ **Communicating Doors**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) □ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) □ **Funny Money**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) ◩ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . □ ***Mack and Mabel***: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ ***THE BIRDCAGE*** (15) Crass, gaudy remake of *La Cage aux Folles*, with Robin Williams and Nathan Lane as the gay couple faced with an in-law problem. Director, Mike Nichols. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

RICHARD III (15) Shakespeare updated to the 1930s. Cursory cinema with Ian McKellen. Director, Richard Loncraine. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366)

SAFE (15) Unnerving drama about environmental sickness, with Julianne Moore. Written and directed by Todd Haynes. **MGMs: Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **SUDDEN DEATH** (18) Clichés galore with Jean-Claude Van Damme as a fireman fighting an extortionist gang. With Powers Boothe. Director, Peter Hyams. **Empire** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **CITY HALL** (15) Something rotten in the city of New York, even with Al Pacino as Mayor. Watchable drama with John Cusack, Bridget Fonda and Danny Aiello. Director, Harold Becker. **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***DEAD MAN WALKING*** (15) Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director, Tim Robbins. **MGMs: Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U) Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee. **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

SMOKE (15) Criss-crossing lives in Brooklyn. Agreeable, fairy piece with Harvey Keitel and William Hurt. **Everyman** ♿ (0171-435 1525) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGM Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TOY STORY** (PG) Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. Director, John Lasseter. **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TWELVE MONKEYS** (15) Unwieldy extravaganza from Terry Gilliam, with Bruce Willis as the time-traveller seeking the source of a virus. **Barbican** ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800-888 997) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

UNZIPPED (15) Exuberant documentary about fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi as he creates a new collection. Director, Douglas Keeve. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279)

Benedict Nightingale on a powerful new play, and a row over theatre unions

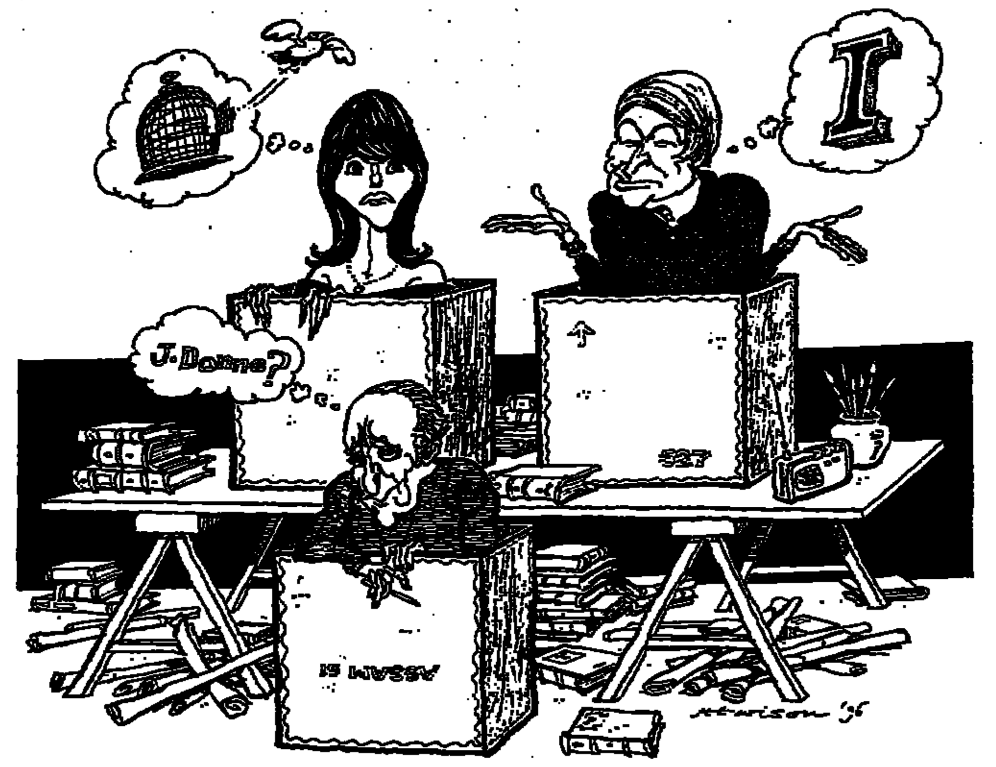
Inspector of the thought police

The American dramatist Wallace Shawn was co-author of *My Dinner with André*, which consisted of a long, impassioned and surprisingly gripping conversation about the meaning of life. He also wrote the excellent *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, which showed an impressionable girl transformed into a fascist by the articulate arrogance of a charismatic relative. So you will not be surprised to hear that Shawn's latest play is highly unconventional, much concerned with matters of politics, culture and human significance — and, if you are prepared to make more mental effort than even the National normally demands, a pretty rewarding piece.

The Designated Mourner
Cottesloe

In front of a huge mosaic of tiny gold squares, whose purpose I could not fathom, there is a rough wooden table, whose purpose I could. It rests on orange-boxes packed with books, is itself covered with books, and behind it sit three people whose lives have had rather a lot to do with books. David de Keyser is a rumpled old poet called Howard. Beside him is Miranda Richardson as his daughter Judy, looking sleek yet vulnerable. And beside her is Mike Nichols, best known these days as a director but making a rare return to his thespian roots as Judy's husband, Jack.

Although the characters occasionally address each other, David Hare's production mostly consists of monologues directed at you and me. And, for quite a time, you and I are lured into thinking that Shawn's main target is cultural pretension and radical chic. It is easy to sympathise with Jack's feelings of resentment at his status as resident lowbrow in a house where the cognoscenti bewail poverty and suffering while comfortably discussing John Donne. You buy his view of de Keyser's effortlessly lordly Howard: which is that he is a supercilious, hypocritical old monster, in whom selfishness, hypochondria and incestuous affection have combined to turn Jack and Judy's happy marriage into a wretched one.



Miranda Richardson (Judy), Mike Nichols (Jack) and David de Keyser (Howard) in Wallace Shawn's "highly unconventional and pretty rewarding" *The Designated Mourner*

But Nichols's wolfish, oddly weak smirks and awkward little fidgetings suggest something less straightforward. So, increasingly, does Shawn's play. We begin to hear tales of banana-republic violence, imprisonment and death. It seems that the American underclass has rebelled, and that changes of government and cycles of repression have followed, swallowing the writers who helped to inspire the turmoil. Nichols's forlorn, nihilistic Jack is left in a world without books, modern poets or even Donne, philistinism's "designated mourner" for the passing of Howard's learning as well as of his preciosity and pride.

Is the play an *intellectual's* paranoid view of a Middle America that reads girlie mags and fails to worship at the shrine of Eng Lit? Some may feel so. But there is a quality in Shawn's writing — imaginative verve, quiet intensity, a sort of puritan sensitivity or a blend of them all — that reduces objections to quibbles. If the cast were weaker, such a conclusion would doubtless be less emphatic; but even then your ears would have to be made of tin or cloth if you failed to reach it.

This is a playwright who does not just tell you what it is like to be arrested at night by goons or to fall morally apart and become an aimless yet weirdly contented ghost of yourself. He has the originality to make you feel it.

Why won't Equity let my show go on?

According to Sir Peter Hall, restrictive unions are stifling the free flow of theatrical talent

If you had asked Eliot Ness how he felt about the kind gentlemen offering protection to the good folk of Chicago, he could not have reacted more robustly than Sir Peter Hall when the subject of the actors' unions in Britain and America came up in a recent chat *(Benedict Nightingale writes)*. "Nauseating", "wicked", "horrible", "a disgrace to the profession", "awful", "dreadful" were the words that came pouring from perhaps the most respected mouth in the English-speaking theatre. "Both Equities need their heads banging together," he said. "I've had 30 years of prohibition and it's enough."

It might seem odd that Hall should explode right now. Seven of the original English cast will be in his revival of Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* when it opens on Broadway next week. But American Equity, which has the power of yea and nay in such matters, has allowed this only because Hall is soon to bring Jessica Lange and several American actors to London in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Moreover, he is enraged that, despite regular offers from America, *An Ideal Husband* is the first Peter Hall Company show to have crossed the Atlantic since Vanessa Redgrave in *Orpheus Descending* and Dustin Hoffman in *The Merchant of Venice* eight years ago.

Both Equities accept "star" performers, such as Hoffman or Redgrave, without demur. But though this category may embrace the lead actor in some dopey television soap, it often excludes major stage performers. Juliet Stevenson could not take her stunning performance in *Death and the Maiden* to New York. American Equity denied Billie Whitelaw star status, even though she was acting in plays Beckett wrote for her. British Equity has been similarly sniffy about Mandy Patinkin and Patti Lupone.

New York missed Shaffer's *Gift of the Gorgon*, because Hall, its director, did not think an American actor should replace Michael Pennington in the role of an English poet. His revival of Ibsen's *Master Builder* recently met the same fate. Alan Bates, its Solness, was acceptable to Equity but its Hilde, Victoria Hamilton, was simply a brilliant newcomer and thus taboo.

There are ways round such embargoes. Both Equities allow foreign "unit" companies to play briefly in their countries. Cheek by Jowl could recently bring its *Duchess of Malfi* to Brooklyn. The trouble, again, is definition. The RSC is a unit company, despite a high turnover of actors, but the Peter Hall Company apparently is not. So for Hall and other producers, there is one final recourse: swaps.

Briton A may perform in America if American B performs in Britain. *Streetcar* balances *Ideal Husband*. Michael Gambon will appear in New York in David Hare's *Skylight* despite the insult of being refused star status by American Equity. He and his co-lead, Lia Williams, are part of an exchange involving Robert Bogue, an American recently seen in London in *Burning Blue*. On such weird, intricate, time-consuming barter does the fate of plays depend.

Both Equities defend restrictions on the grounds that an alien influx denies advancement to native actors in a profession where unemployment is high. They also feel that the swap-system has vastly liberalised things, and some producers agree with them. Bill Kenwright, who is sending *An Ideal Husband* to New York, finds them "terrifically supportive". Robert Fox, producer of *Skylight*, says their officers "are as helpful as possible without incurring the wrath of their members". But senior practitioners ask why there are limitations on the free exchange of talent in the first place.

"Disgraceful," says Richard Eyre, director of the National. "Potty," adds Adrian Noble, his RSC counterpart. And Hall lets rip: "We don't stop American films being made here, we don't exclude concert soloists, we don't reject books because we've got books of our own. A union ought to be developing talent and promoting creative interchange. A closed shop is defensive and deadening. It makes me terribly angry."

Though the Americans' fear of English invasion makes them the tougher, the British union has its moments too. It recently stopped Hall casting Michael Cherry, a young Trinidadian he regards as "a bit of a genius", in the *Oedipus* he is soon to stage at the National. And, as he points out, who suffers? Not just Cherry himself, not just the British theatre, but a figure rather low on both Equities' list of priorities: the spectator, the consumer, you and me.

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THEATRES

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APOLLO Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5070 Previews from 9 May. Eves 8pm, Thu mat 3pm Sat 5 & 8.15. Press Night 20 May 7pm Zoë Wanamaker Maria Aitken Robin Ellis SYLVIA a romantic comedy by A.R. Gurney directed by Michael Blakemore

ARTS 836 2132/420 0000 BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH by Jimmy Murphy 'Best new play in London' Guardian MUST END 18 MAY Eves 7.30, Sat at 5.30 & 8.30

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

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هدية من الأهل

■ POP 1

Great music on the Cranberries' *To the Faithful Departed* ... shame about the cloying sentiments

■ POP 2

Jagged emotions and craggy sounds characterise *The Sun is Often Out*, a fine debut by Longpigs

THE TIMES ARTS

■ POP 3

Bob Mould's new album is a dark collection of tunes charged with a desolate set of lyrics

■ POP 4

The Bluetones share a little of their "air of gentle, joyful abundance" with Caitlin Moran

Weldon traces a novel path

JAZZ ALBUMS

NICK WELDON
Lavender's Blue
(Verge 001CD)

IT MIGHT be over-simplistic to suggest that Nick Weldon, piano-playing son of Fay, shares his mother's gift for storytelling. Jazz and fiction have their own rules, of course, though it is worth noting that some years ago, in the days when the Bass Clef club was still open for business, Weldon Jr presented an eccentric musical interpretation of the novel *Puffball*, his mother taking care of the readings.

That venture yielded mixed results; *Lavender's Blue*, on the other hand, is an unqualified triumph. An absorbing trio set, it combines an offbeat selection of tunes — including *In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning* and Hampton Hawes's *Sonora* — with unfailingly sensitive group improvisation. From the very first track, the bluesy theme of *Mabs and Tucker* (taken from the *Puffball* suite), Weldon resists the temptation to over-embellish the strong melodic lines.

In bassist Andrew Cleyndert and drummer Paul Clarvis he has found ideal partners. The Lammas saxophonist Tim Garland also makes a guest appearance, while his colleague Christine Tobin provides scorching vocals on Weldon's title tune. I cannot think of a more enjoyable and artfully sculpted British recording to have come my way in the past year.

JAN GARBAREK
Visible World
(ECM 1585)

NOBODY could have expected *Officium*, the ecclesiastical collaboration with the Hilliard Ensemble, to take off so spectacularly. With this small-group project, the Norwegian saxophonist retreats to the stark, windswept soundscapes we know so well. The skeletal themes — most of which were drawn from original film and ballet scores — are tastefully executed. A sense of *déjà vu* lingers nonetheless.

CLIVE DAVIS

NEW RECORDS: **David Sinclair** finds Dolores O'Riordan's muse too self-righteous

Slice of Cranberry pious

SINGLE

KULA SHAKER
Grateful When You're Dead/Jerry Was There
(Columbia KULACD2)

RECENTLY spotted whipping up a storm on dates with the Presidents of the United States of America, Kula Shaker are a four-piece band from London. Picking up the retro-rock baton carried thus far by Ocean Colour Scene, they run like hell with it on their blazing second single, a two-in-one song called *Grateful When You're Dead/Jerry Was There*.

"If you know your history you will read between the lines," Crispian Mills sings against a fiercely shifting beat, while organist Jay Darlington pastes over the guitar part with the kind of lines not in vogue since the debut albums by Santana and Chicago Transit Authority.

The vexed question of whether or not we have heard all this before pales into insignificance in the face of the sheer barnstorming magnificence of the track. Play it again, man.

ALBUMS

THE CRANBERRIES
To the Faithful Departed
(Island 524 234)

ON A strictly musical level, *To the Faithful Departed* is as good as anything the Cranberries have recorded before. Produced by Bruce Fairbairn, a man more associated with old-school heavyweights such as Aerosmith and Van Halen than with the jangling, indie-pop sound for which the Cranberries are best known, the album has plenty of backbone. On the uptempo single, *Salvation*, and the rampaging *Forever Yellow Skies* it rocks convincingly but without forfeiting the gentler, more wistful side of the group's muse with songs such as *The Rebels* and *Free To Decide*.

However, on a philosophical and spiritual plane there is a pious undercurrent to Dolores O'Riordan's lyrics. "This album is dedicated to all those who have gone before us," she announces in sleeve notes which marry cloying sentiment to a glibly portentous tone. And if her strident, banshee whoop is beginning to grate, so too is the over-literal verse with which she pays respect to her fallen heroes in *I Just Shot John Lennon* and *I'm Still Remembering*, the latter a eulogy to Kurt Cobain ("Yesterday was cold and bare/Because you were not there").

Further solemn pronouncements on the big issues of the day ensue with *War Child* and *Bosnia*, the latter closing the album with a sickly mixture of strings and a child's music box and which could have been a reject from the *Mary Poppins* soundtrack. Always one to wade in where others would tread more cautiously, O'Riordan is still taking the pop-star trip too seriously both for her own, and this album's good.

Sound investment: the Cranberries have turned to stadium-rock producer Bruce Fairbairn

LONGPIGS
The Sun is Often Out
(Mother 551 542)

COULD Longpigs be the new Radiohead? Certainly the Sheffield group's debut album proceeds at the same measured pace and conjures similar extremes of jagged emotion as those on Radiohead's classic essay in millennium blues, *The Bends*. Which is enough to make this an exceptional album, no matter how the group fares now.

With songs ranging from the dreamy *On and On* to the momentous *Jesus Christ*, the album is built around the craggy guitar chops of Richard Hawley and the pleading vocal acrobatics of Crispin Hunt — a delivery so impassioned that he repeatedly slips into a momentary falsetto like a nervous tic.

A slight Beatles influence can be detected on *Far*, and the dark, swirling ambience of the music as a whole recalls the twisted glamour of Suede at their most forceful. But this is a trailblazing album that stands proudly on its own terms and hints at even greater things in store.

BOB MOULD
Bob Mould
(Creation CRECD 188)

STILL an inconspicuous personality on the rock landscape, despite a straight run of three Top Ten albums with his now defunct group Sugar, Bob Mould can be found furiously licking his wounds on this, his third and most deeply personal solo album. "Critically acclaimed and publicly defamed/There's nothing I can say about it/Much less I could do about it," he sings with surprising gusto on *Art Crisis*, one of the more upbeat numbers on a dark collection of tunes freighted with frighteningly desolate, self-lacerating lyrics.

Fuelled by bitterness, exhaustion and an inner turmoil that seems to be the legacy of both a failed relationship and the disintegration of his band ("This one is for me" is his defiant dedication on the sleeve credits), it is an album which makes for distinctly uneasy listening.

Although buoyed by the snappy melodies of *Deep Karma Canyon* and *Fort Knox, King Solomon*, it is the violently unhappy sentiments of *Roll Over and Die* and *Hair Stew*, where a horrid screeching sound gnaws into the fabric of the song, which leave the more lasting impression.

ELVIS PRESLEY
Elvis 56
(RCA/BMG 07863 66817)

HIS memory has been subject to some monstrous distortions, but Elvis Presley *was* the king of rock 'n' roll and here is the reason why. Unlike other compilations from the 1950s, which have tended to cram together vast wodges of hits and/or obscurities, *Elvis 56* offers a more manageable snapshot of Presley's best work in the one year it all came good for him, together with basic information and a stunning booklet of behind-the-scenes photographs by Alfred Wertheimer.

Imagine in 40 years' time listening to a compilation called *Oasis 95*. However dated and familiar the songs might then sound, the vigour and unbridled confidence of the band at that moment would still surely shine through. Presley in 1956 was Oasis to the power of 100, and there is still an unmistakable glory in his performances of *Heartbreak Hotel, Hound Dog, Blue Suede Shoes, Rip It Up, Don't Be Cruel* and many others that transcends the dated sound of the recordings and continues to evoke a unique sense of wonder.

It is no coincidence that 1956 was also Year Zero for popular music as we still know and love it today.

TOP TEN DANCE ALBUMS

1	**L. T. J. Bukem Presents Logical Progression**	Various Artists (FFrr)
2	**The Score**	Fugees (Columbia)
3	**Artcore — the Art of Drum & Bass**	Various Artists (React)
4	**Trade — Volume Two**	Various Artists (Feverpitch)
5	***Once Upon a Time in America***	Smoothe da Hustler (Profile)
6	**The Coming**	Busta Rhymes (Elektra)
7	**Urban Hang Suite**	Maxwell (Columbia)
8	**Dance Nation**	Various Artists (Ministry of Sound)
9	**An Instinct for Detection**	Lionrock (Deconstruction)
10	**Lacabincalifornia**	Pharcyde (Go! Beat)

© CIN

Here come the warm jets

Those nice young Bluetones were expecting to fly, but the take-off speed surprised some of their fans

CAITLIN MORAN

Just sometimes, with the wind in the right direction and God on your side, Fate will turn your life into a pop video. A friend of mine still goes misty at the recollection of being in Red Square just as the dawn turns the world from endless black to a wash of lilac, and hearing Dubstar's *Stars* booming from a market stallholder's stereo as he set up for the day. The song lasted exactly the time it takes to walk from the east to the west side of Red Square, while eating an eclair. Had Dubstar thought of it, I'm sure that's the image which would have graced *The Chart Show* two weeks ago.

Similarly, had the Bluetones accepted my offer of coming on a driving holiday in Wales in mid-February, they would have realised that the perfect video for their most recent single, *Slight Return*, would have involved descending an icy mountain road just as the tape kicked into its Bluetones half-hour, and finding that the clocks were two months fast in the valleys of Snowdonia — a sudden, unexpected spring of tiny, hyperactive lambs, rainbows, swollen becks and blossoms so profuse it seemed as if the clouds had got tangled in the branches of the trees. All Bluetones records have this air of gentle, joyful abundance, with their sweet, circular guitars and confident, comforting harmonies: secure in the untroubled beauty of lines like "There's no heart you can't melt with a certain little smile".

The only strident or ruthless facet to the Bluetones is their unerring pop sensibility — 11 perfect slices of post-Stone Roses gorgeousness on a debut album that went straight in at No 1. The Bluetones are the band least likely to go missing, go dead, or insist that their pet penguin be called "Sir" at all times. The Bluetones, it seems, have no problems.

"The Bluetones' problem is that they keep coming up with these hugely expensive and tricky images," the band's press woman mock-grumbles. "Because they called the album *Expecting To Fly*, I had to spend the three months getting permission to stand on freezing runways while photographers snapped them standing in front of Boeing 747s. I wish they'd called it *Expecting to Drive*. Or *Expecting to Walk Through Somewhere Like Deptford*.

"The Bluetones' problem is that everyone expects us to be punching each other," Mark Morris, the lead singer, explains. "'Cos it's me and my brother in the band, everyone thinks we're going to be like Liam and Noel Gallagher — hitting each other over the head with bricks, and trying to chuck each other in swimming pools. I think my brother's cool — I'm not going to hit him. Unless he's very annoying."

"No, no, no," Scott Morriss chimes in. "The Bluetones' problem is that no one realises we have talents in other areas — I, for instance, am the king of breakdancing."

"You're all wrong," second guitarist Adam wades in. "The Bluetones' problem is that Scott has revolutionised the catering industry with his Baked Bean Pies, and still hasn't got the rewards he deserves."

"No, to be serious for exactly" — Mark Morriss looks at his watch — "one minute and four seconds, one of the problems we have had is that, up until four months ago, we'd got to where we were without any press, television or radio coverage — that old word-of-mouth thing happened, and we had a dedicated band of people who had followed us around the country, skipping rail fares and kipping on mates' sofas to see us live.

"Then, when we got into the charts and started being interviewed all over the place, it was like a barrier had been put between us. Before, if someone wanted to know what a lyric meant, they'd come up to us after the gig and ask. Now they read all this stuff in the press which is just a journalist's opinion, but because it's in black and white it looks like the Bible. And it's not. So that's The Bluetones' problem — what was personal and secret is now impersonal and on the cover of magazines.

"But that's OK. We'll just make the music even sweeter and stronger, and people will still get the message."

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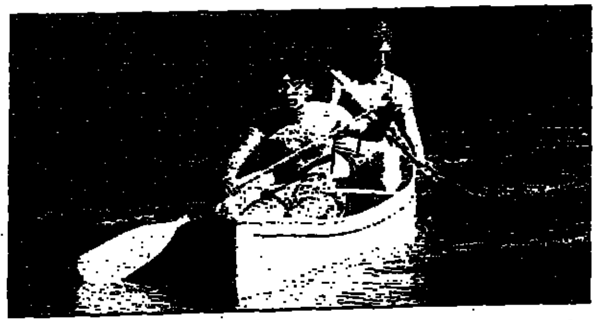

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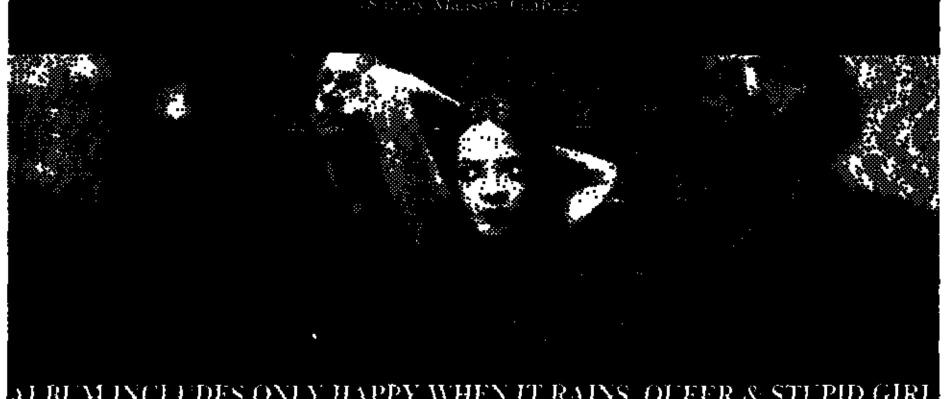

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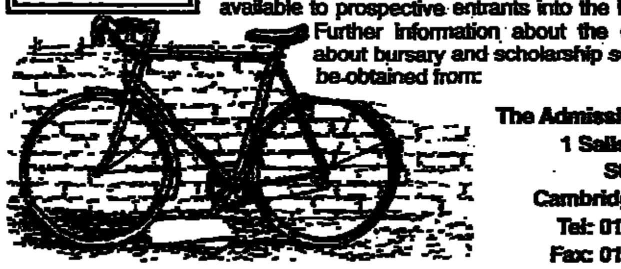

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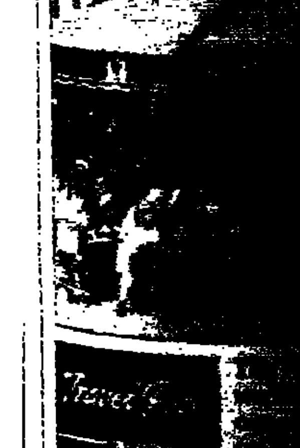

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EDUCATION

This is the truth sent from above

Girl and boy choristers may not, after all, sound that different

Can you tell the difference between the sounds made by girl and boy choristers? Many organists and directors of cathedral choir schools think they can, which is perhaps why it has taken so long for choirs to open their doors to girls. Boys' voices are purer, stronger, more intense, say those who know about such things, whereas girls' voices are lighter and breathier.

"A boy's voice in the year or so before it breaks has a particularly magical quality to it," says David Flood, organist at Canterbury Cathedral, one of the most traditional choir schools in England. "It is more powerful than a girl's." Female voices do not reach their peak until much later, Mr Flood says.

However, researchers at the Roehampton Institute, London, have found otherwise. When asked to identify from audiotapes whether a choir was male, female or mixed, the expert choirmasters often got it wrong.

The study, by Professor Graham Welch and his colleagues, entailed taping 15 choirs singing the first verse of the carol *This is the Truth Sent From Above*. The recording of each choir appeared three times on a single tape, so each expert had 45 examples to listen to.

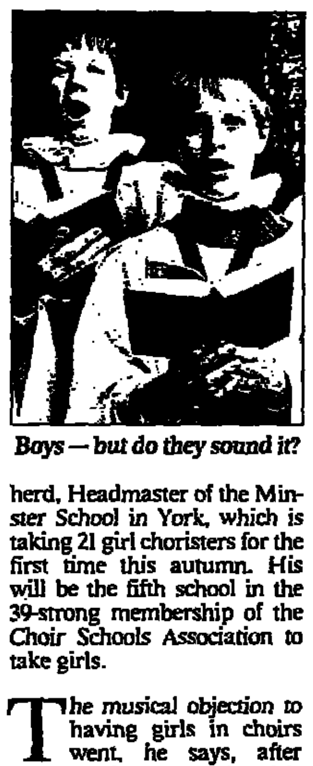
Professor Welch, Dean of Education at Roehampton — who will take part in a panel at the Choir Schools Association conference at Wells Cathedral School, Somerset, next week — says: "We found that most of the time people were very certain, but that they were often very wrong."

In fact the experts got their judgments right more often than wrong, but there was a good deal of error. "They were consistently wrong as well as consistently right." Professor Welch says: "There was no clear pattern." Some cathedral choirs were rated uniformly as being very boylike and they were in fact boys' choirs. Others were all-male cathedral choirs but were judged to be female. And there were two girls' choirs which were almost always classified as male.

Why was that? The academics found a clear correlation between male-sounding girls' choirs and the fact they were trained by a choirmaster from a cathedral choir school. "Girls' choirs trained by men in the cathedral choir tradition produced girls' choirs that sang in the way that fitted their stereotype." Professor Welch says. "If you want boys to sound like boys, they can. If you want them to sound like girls, they can. Equally, if you want girls to sound like boys, they can.

"So the sound that boys or girls make to a certain extent is socially constructed. Therefore, if you don't want to have girls in a cathedral choir it's for social and cultural reasons, not for musical ones. It certainly doesn't seem to be for acoustic ones."

Not all members of the choir school world are surprised at the findings. "The battle is now won," says Richard Shepherd, Headmaster of the Minster School in York, which is taking 21 girl choristers for the first time this autumn. His will be the fifth school in the 39-strong membership of the Choir Schools Association to take girls.



Boys — but do they sound it?

The musical objection to having girls in choirs went, he says, after Salisbury began to take girls in 1991. The social argument that boys will desert any choir that contains girls is scaremongering, he adds.

However, most choir school heads establish separate boys and girls choirs when they do go coeducational. Thus, the girl choristers at York are singing separately from the boys, just as they do at Salisbury and other places. Edinburgh is the only one to have set up a mixed choir.

LUCY HODGES

Classes in the front room

Simon Midgley

on why some parents prefer to teach their children at home

As experts agonise over the earliest moment at which a child can safely begin nursery classes, thousands of families have opted for the opposite approach. About 20,000 school-age children are being educated at home.

Isobel Bogucki's eldest son, Michael, 15, has never been to school. Neither has his sister Helen, 12, nor his brother Martin, .

Beverley Young's daughter, Cassie, 7, was withdrawn from primary school after five months, three years ago. She has never returned. Her younger brother Alexander, 4, will not be going to school either.

The children are part of a growing trend. Although precise numbers are hard to come by Dr Roland Meighen, of Nottingham University, believes that as many as 10,000 families are taking the do-it-yourself option. The Department for Education and Employment knows of about 7,000 children in England who are not being taught in schools.

Education Otherwise, a national support group for parents dissatisfied with state and private education, says that about 80 families a month express an interest in educating their children at home. Twenty years ago there were just ten families in England and Wales who were educating their children at home.

In Victorian times, it was not unusual for the children of the well-to-do and upper classes to be taught by a tutor or governess. Now, however, children from all backgrounds are being home-educated.

There are many reasons why parents choose to teach their own children. Some do it for philosophical or religious reasons, others to escape bullying or because their children have special educational needs — they are perhaps dyslexic, school phobic or especially bright. Schools may variously be thought to be too formal, progressive or strict.

In Britain anyone can educate their children at home — while education is compulsory, school is not. Parents are not obliged to notify any authority if a child is to be taught at home after his or her fifth birthday. If parents withdraw a child already in school, however, they must inform the school, which must in turn tell the local education authority.

CHRIS LOUFTE

Out of school: Beverley Young teaching her children, Alexander and Cassie, at their home in Preston

Beverley Young, a 32-year-old registered childminder from Preston, Lancashire, says she and her husband, David, a delivery driver, decided to withdraw their daughter from the local primary school because she was not getting enough individual attention. Cassie, who was reading fluently when she went to school just after turning four, became bored in reception class after being forced to read baby books.

Mrs Young was not happy either about peer pressures in the playground. "She became very streetwise. All the magic seemed to have been lost. I just wanted to allow her a little bit more time to grow up slowly."

Isobel Bogucki, a former chemistry and physics teacher, from Horsham, West Sussex, did not enjoy her grammar school and became increasingly disillusioned with education in schools while she was a teacher. "What the children needed and what we were doing for them did not match up. They were getting facts to pass exams, they were not following up their interests outside school."

Mrs Bogucki says: "When Michael was born I looked at him and thought 'He is going to grow up and go through that system' and I felt really sad. We never came to a decision not to send him, we thought we would think about it and just kept on thinking about it."

In the event, Michael has never been to school. He, his sister Helen, and younger brother Martin have been home-educated by Mrs Bogucki. From the beginning she adopted an unstructured approach. While she read to her children, writing and mathematics evolved out of play and learning through everyday experiences.

Computation might be learnt through counting buns, working out how fast the car was travelling or noting changes in temperatures. "I let their interests lead them. Sometimes they need to learn things in order to do other things, but the main reason for learning is because you are interested.

"I don't believe there is any set time you should know a certain set of facts by. Learning new things continues throughout life."

Mrs Bogucki regards herself as an organiser of resources and a learning facilitator. "I just try to expose them to what is available and what is possible and they can take up things which appeal to them. The fact that they reject something this week does not mean that they won't be interested in it next week.

"Education is not what you know. It's how you behave when you don't know and need to find out. Children at home don't have to pretend they know things and don't need to be insecure about not knowing."

It is difficult to know how to measure the success of her efforts. Michael started to write when he was five, Helen is only now getting interested in learning to spell correctly, Martin wrote for the first time at the age of eight last year but is still not very interested in writing.

Her husband Bob, a chemical engineer, sometimes has doubts about home education when he would like to see more formal written work. Their West Sussex local education authority, which inspects what Mrs Bogucki is doing three times a year, is not, she says, altogether convinced by her informal methods.

Michael says: "I think home education is good for some people, not necessarily for everyone. I find it good. I like it in the sense that I don't have to stick to the national curriculum and learn what the teachers say I have to learn. At the moment I'm reading about quantum physics and Einstein's theory of relativity."

Dr Meighen says that research in America and case studies in Britain suggest that if a family sustains home-based education for two years, they can normally expect their children to be about two years ahead of their contemporaries at school. At the top end of the scale, they could be ten years ahead and at the bottom no better or worse than contemporaries.

Where conditions are appropriate, he says, children can learn to read in 30 hours. They can be prepared for GCSE mathematics in 60 hours. Other studies, he adds, suggest that home-educated children are more socially mature and emotionally stable than their school-based contemporaries who are dependent on peers for language, attitudes and taste.

Home educators do what they do more efficiently, Dr Meighen says. They often offer one-to-one learning, direct access to resources, a friendly learning environment and children don't have to waste time travelling back and forth to school.

Dymphna Byrne finds that holidays can be the best time to take a course that will broaden your knowledge

School's in for summer

The students — better dressed and older than typical undergraduates — and the tubs of flowers and hanging baskets brightening Lancaster's rather severe modern campus gave it away. We were leisure learners, up for just a week during the summer. My simply furnished study bedroom was more in tune with student life: single bed, desk, wardrobe and drawers. Bathrooms and a small kitchen were along the corridor.

We followed various subjects, from brushing up our Italian conversation — French is old hat — to mastering the *Alexander Technique* — self-awareness is in. Silversmithing, walking the fells and creative writing were among two dozen options. Supervised activities for four to eight-year-olds and Summer Fun for the eight-to-14s left parents free to follow their own courses.

People take summer courses for mental stimulation and pleasure. They are rarely disappointed. Vitality is the key. Whether you go alone, with a friend or couple or family, you will be engrossed; age and status are irrelevant. A 60-plus widow at Lancaster, initially intimidated by the swirl, decided to return. A couple of Summer Academy groupies at Durham, friends in their early fifties, had taken a course every year since 1986. Tuition is high-calibre, from college lecturers, teachers, tutors from adult education classes and outside experts for specialist subjects. Spacious grounds and other amenities are at the disposal of summer students. Evening entertainment at most summer schools ranges from dances, discos and jazz to rambles, concerts and debates. There is usually a bar on campus.

The following round-up shows what is available. Prices are per person per week and, unless stated, include tuition and lodging.

Putting their art into it: a class at Millfield School

UNIVERSITIES

Summer Academy: 13 British and Irish universities run 83 courses under four headings — Heritage, Countryside, the Arts, Personal Development. From June 29 to August 31, £340 to £390. Summer Academy, Keynes College, the University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NP (01227 470402).

Lancaster: Courses related to the area — Victorian Lancashire, the Romans in Northern Britain, the Reformation and the Monasteries are popular. The Lake District campus, Ambleside runs from July 1 to 12. Lancaster from July 29 to August 2, board and lodging £188-£290, course fees £65-£139; reductions for children. Summer Studies, Lancaster University, Storey Institute, Lancaster LA1 1TH (01524 849494).

Exeter: Morning-only courses from August 4 to 10. Standard or en-suite single rooms with some doubles, adults £249-£299, children £195-£235. University of Exeter, Domestic Services Division, Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 4PZ (01392 215566).

Nottingham: courses include The Glory of the Garden, Computing for the Terrified and Keys to Happiness. From July 20 to 27, £285-£350. Single study bedrooms. Learn at Leisure, University of Nottingham, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FQ (01159 516526).

St Andrews: Courses mainly with a Scottish theme.

Single or double rooms from June 22 to August 17, £199-£325, St Andrews University Holidays, 66 North Street, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AH (01334 462202).

Stirling: Five-day and weekend courses. Stirling is noted for its music courses — from bagpipes and fiddles to Baroque. The campus on the beautiful Airthrey estate, an hour's drive from Glasgow and Edinburgh. From June 23 to August 17, £74-£268. Summer School Office, Airthrey Castle Annexe, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA (01786 467951).

Glamorgan: Week-long choices from July 21 to August 2. Tuition fees £110. Accommodation only (single en-suite rooms) £52 a week, full board £110 a week. University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 1DL (01443 480480).

St Aidan's College, Durham: This new venture by the Durham University college is a holiday rather than a study course. Tours, walks, visits to stately homes, castles. From July 6 to September 14, £299 standard room, £359 ensuite. The Northumbria Experience, St Aidan's College, University of Durham, Windmill Hill, Durham DH1 3LJ (0191-374 3280).

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Millfield: A choice of 330 courses under the headings of Sport, Art, Culture, Educational and Fun. From July 29 to August 16. Course fees £70-£180, children £70-£95. Accommodation and full board £150-£170, children from £99. Millfield Village of Education, Street, Somerset BA16 0YD (01458 445823).

Marlborough College: 50 new courses this year, from fly-fishing to botany for gardeners. From July 14 to August 3, adults £82-£185, children £48-£150, accommodation £100-£165. Discounts for families and senior citizens. Marlborough College Summer School, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1PA (01672 892388).

Taunton School: Wide range of subjects for adults and children. From July 28 to August 17, £225-£345. Taunton Summer School, Somerset TA2 6AD (01823 349243).

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Second chance in the Valleys

A 'community university' is a success, despite initial doubts

When it was launched in 1993, the Community University of the Valleys — designed to breathe new life into an area devastated by unemployment — was regarded by many as an experiment that was worthy but had little prospect of success.

This week, however, it has proved the doubters wrong by announcing major expansion. Swansea University's Department of Adult Continuing Education, the founder, is being joined in a new partnership by the Open University and Glamorgan University. A second chance in education will be extended from the western Valleys right across the former South Wales coalfield.

Swansea's intention, when it created the Community University, was to regenerate depressed Valley communities by meeting local people's demands for more education and training.

The university opened its doors at Banwen village, in the Dulais Valley, in a building converted by the European Community. A crèche was provided for the students' children.

Two and a half years on, Banwen has 50 students enrolled on its part-time degree courses, studying topics as diverse as modern Wales and the environment. And this summer the first intake will be taking their Part I examinations before doing three years more study to obtain the ten credits they will need for their degree.

Since Banwen opened, Swansea has established satellite centres in the Gwendraeth Valley and Maesteg, enabling more students to embark on courses. It has also established a foundation year, teaching study skills and offering taster courses.

From the beginning, however, Swansea has focused on humanities and social science courses. Soon the entire curriculum should be covered.

Under the Glamorgan scheme, students build up credits as they study. They can acquire a certificate of higher education after 30 weeks, a diploma in 60 weeks and a degree in 90.

The credit system has enabled the universities to establish their partnership. The Community University recognises credits or passes achieved at any of the three. As a result, someone with sufficient Open University credits could go straight to Part II of the Swansea course. A part-time student from Banwen could use Swansea's credits towards a diploma or degree from Glamorgan.

The expectation is that successful students will receive their degrees from the institution that awards them the greatest number of credits. But the Community University is working towards establishing degree schemes that can be awarded jointly by two or more institutions.

The Community University has come a long way in two and a half years. But it acknowledges that more needs to be done, particularly to attract long-term unemployed men.

IOLA SMITH

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Solicitors acted for purchaser and lender

Bristol and West Building Society v May May & Merrimans and Others

Before Mr Justice Chadwick

[Judgment April 16]

When a solicitor acted for a purchaser and also for the lender providing finance for a property purchase, and received money representing the advance prior to completion, he held that money in trust for the lender. He was in breach of trust if he parted with the money in a manner which was contrary to his instructions or after failure to disclose to the lender facts which his retainer required him to disclose.

A lender would not normally be entitled to summary judgment in a case of non-disclosure, because the lender had also to show that his loss would not have occurred but for the breach, and there was therefore a triable issue as to whether or not he would have proceeded with the transaction if full disclosure had been made.

However, when the solicitor received the money from the lender after a request based on a warranty or representation by the solicitor which he knew, or ought to have known, was likely to be misleading, the solicitor was not entitled to challenge the lender's claim that he would not have proceeded with the transaction but for the warranty or representation. In such a case the lender was entitled to summary judgment.

Mr Justice Chadwick so held in the Chancery Division when giving a combined judgment in cases brought by the Bristol and West Building Society against 13 defendant solicitors. Some of the cases were appeals from decisions of district judges on applications for summary judgement under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court 1965, others were de novo applications under Order 14.

Mr Michael Burton, QC, Mr Paul Lowenstein, Mr Timothy Higginson, Mr William Bojczuk and Mr Christopher Semken for the society; Mr Nicholas Davidson, QC, Mr Patrick Lawrence and Miss Elizabeth Weaver for the defendant solicitors.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the actions arose out of loans made between 1988 and 1991 by the plaintiff building society for the purchase of domestic property. During those years the price of domestic property had been rising steeply and there was a widely held belief that it would continue to do so.

The society was an active lender in that market and loans equivalent to 90 per cent or more of the purchase price were not unusual. Several of the borrowers defaulted on repayment, and when the property market collapsed and house prices fell, the proceeds of sale of the repossessed properties were in many cases insufficient to cover the borrowers' indebtedness.

There was little hope of recovering the shortfall from the borrowers and the society sought to make recovery from the defendant solicitors.

The 13 cases represented only a small proportion of those commenced by the society against solicitors. Although each turned on its own facts they were heard together since there were common elements in the terms on which the solicitors were retained, and in view of the number of cases commenced some reasonably comprehensive guidance was necessary as to the way in which the court was to approach applications for summary judgment. The Solicitors Indemnity Fund stood behind the individual defendant solicitors, and in effect the dispute was between the society and the fund.

It was a common feature of the cases that the society instructed the borrower's solicitor to act in relation to the taking of its security. The borrower gave the name of his solicitor to the society when he applied for an advance.

If the application was approved the society sent a copy of its offer to the solicitor, together with instructions inviting the solicitor to act on its behalf. In accepting those instructions the solicitor became solicitor to the parties on each side of the lending transaction.

The society made no direct payment to the borrower but paid the amount of the advance to the solicitor for the purpose of enabling the purchase of the property to be completed. The moneys received by the solicitor from the society for the purpose of a mortgage loan were held by the solicitor upon trust for the society.

All the defendants were subject to the society's standard terms and solicitors' letter requiring them, among other things, to investigate the title, prepare the mortgage deed and advise the society immediately of any discrepancy or variation in the details of the transaction.

An uncompleted printed form "Report on title and request for advance cheque" was sent to the solicitor. It had to be completed and signed by him, confirming that the details of the transaction accorded exactly with the particulars in the society's offer of advance and the solicitor's instructions. If that document was completed to the society's satisfaction, the society sent the solicitor its cheque for the advance.

In some cases the society alleged there were breaches of the obligation to investigate and report on title to the properties to be mortgaged. But in most cases the conduct complained of was that the solicitor knew of some fact, not relevant to the title, which would or might have influenced a lender in its decision to lend, and which the solicitor did not disclose to the society.

His Lordship referred to *Target Holdings Ltd v Redferns* ([1995] 3 WLR 352) in which the House of Lords accepted that a trustee who wrongly paid away trust money committed a breach of trust and came under an immediate duty to remedy that breach; but the quantum of compensation was fixed, at the date of judgment, as the figure then necessary to put the beneficiary into the position he would have been in had there been no breach.

Equitable compensation was designed to make good the loss in fact suffered by the beneficiaries and which, using hindsight and common sense, could be seen to have been caused by the breach.

The present cases raised a question which it had been unnecessary for the House of Lords to address directly in *Target*: where the breach lay in paying over the mortgage money at a time when the solicitors knew of a matter which ought to be reported to the lender prior to completion, what would have happened in the absence of that breach?

It was submitted on behalf of the solicitors that in order to keep faith with the approach in *Target* the court must investigate what would have happened if the solicitors had done all that they were required to do, namely to disclose the relevant matter and to seek authority to proceed.

If the society would have decided to proceed with the loan notwithstanding the matters disclosed, then, it was submitted, that the breach of trust had caused no loss.

His Lordship said that that submission was difficult to reconcile with the Court of Appeal's decision in *Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd v Maxwell (No 2)* ([1994] 1 All ER 261), where the defendant, Mr Ian Maxwell, was held to be in breach of fiduciary duty in executing stock transfers without the authority of a board resolution to a company controlled by his father.

The court did not think it relevant to consider what would have happened if the defendant had refused, as he should have, to sign the transfers, although that was pre-eminently a case in which the answer to such an investigation might well have been that the transfers would have been made anyway on transfer forms signed by other directors.

It would, it seemed to his Lordship, be a strange principle of equity which allowed a solicitor who, in breach of his duty of good faith, gave his client a warranty which he knew to be false, intending that his client should act upon it, to say in answer to a claim for compensation for the resulting loss that his client must establish that he would not so have acted if he had known the true facts. After all a common reason for knowingly giving a false warranty was the fear that without the false warranty the lender would refuse to proceed.

His Lordship referred to a principle identified by Lord Thankerton in a decision of the Privy Council on appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada, *Brickenden v London Loan and Savings Co* ([1934] 3 DLR 465), namely that where a fiduciary had failed to disclose material facts he could not be heard to say that disclosure would not have altered the decision to proceed with the transaction.

It was accepted that the *Target* decision was inconsistent with the *Brickenden* principle in its application to cases of paying over money in breach of instructions, but it did not follow that the principle had to be treated as overruled by *Target* in cases where the breach of duty lay in the giving of a false warranty or representation for the purpose of obtaining the advance cheque. The decision in *Target* was not directed to that question.

The cases fell into three main groups:

1 The first was where his Lordship was satisfied on the facts that the defendant solicitors had received the mortgage money from the society in response to a request based upon a warranty or representation which the defendant solicitors knew, or must be taken to have known, to be misleading.

For example, in one of those cases the defendants did not inform the society that the effect of a special condition in the purchase contract was that the purchase price was £1,000 less than the price specified in the society's offer of advance.

It had been misleading for the solicitor to confirm to the society that the details of the transaction accorded exactly with the particulars in the society's offer of advance and the solicitor's instructions.

In that group of cases his Lordship was of the view that the *Brickenden* principle applied, so that it was unnecessary to try the question whether the society would have made the advance if it had been told the true facts. That question was irrelevant.

Accordingly, the society was entitled to judgment in those cases, namely those where the defendant solicitors were May May & Merrimans, London WC1; Chalmers Hunt & Gisby, Ware; Mr Anthony R. White, Broxbourne; Pillai Hassan & Corbin, London E1 and Mr Peter Sturgess, Mr Michael O'Neill and Mr Nigel Jeremy all of London W1.

2 In the second group of cases the alleged breach of duty did not consist of a misleading warranty or representation, but of a failure to report some matter to the society. In those cases, his Lordship was satisfied that the society was entitled to succeed on the issue of liability in that the payment on completion was made in breach of its instructions.

But in that group, unlike the first, the society had also to prove that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if the matter in question had been reported to it.

It was not appropriate to determine that issue on summary judgment and the defendants should therefore have unconditional leave to defend on the issue of causation.

Those cases involved the defendant firms: Bower Cotton & Bower, London EC4; Leftley Blackwell, Harrow (save as to £3,433 with interest, in respect of which the society was entitled to judgment), the Simkins Partnership, London W1; Dalas Brett, Oxford and George H. Coles & Co, Hove.

3 The third group of cases consisted of those in which his Lordship was satisfied on the facts that the defendants ought to have unconditional leave to defend because the alleged breach of duty consisted of a failure to make inquiries or to report facts to the society but it was not clear that the defendants ought to have realised that they should have made those inquiries or reported those facts.

Therefore, there was some issue in dispute which ought to be tried in relation to liability. Those involved the defendant firms Alan Budd & Co, Luton; Fancy & Jackson, Ashford, Middlesex; and Bhadresa & Co, East Ham.

Solicitors: Osborne Clarke, Bristol; Eversheds, Bristol, Veale Wasborough, Bristol and Pinsent Curtis.

When business ceased for tax purposes

Marriott v Lane (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment April 19]

For the purposes of claiming retirement relief from capital gains tax a taxpayer was to be taken as having ceased to carry on his business on the date when the cessation took place. His intention at that time that the cessation should only be temporary but which subsequently transpired to be permanent was to have no effect on the decision of that issue.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when allowing an appeal brought by way of case stated by the taxpaayer, Mr Keith F. Marriott, from Paignton general commissioners who had refused his claim to the relief under section 69 of the Finance Act 1985, see now section 163 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, and dismissed his appeal against an assessment to the tax for 1989-90 in the sum of £158,649 in respect of the disposal of land and buildings, The Torbay Aircraft Museum.

Section 69 of the 1985 Act provides for relief "(1) ... in any case where a material disposal of business assets is made by an individual, who at the time of the disposal — (a) has attained the age of 60..."

"(2) ... a disposal of business assets is ... (b) a disposal of one or more assets which, at the time at which a business ceased to be carried on, were in use for the purposes of that business..."

"(4) A disposal of assets ... is a material disposal if — ... (c) the date on which the business ceased to be carried on falls within the permitted period before the date of the disposal."

Paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 20 to the Act defines "permitted period" as "a period of one year".

Mr Jeremy Woolf for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the Torbay Aircraft Museum, owned by the taxpayer, born in 1928, was used by Torbay Aviation Ltd, a company of which the taxpayer was a director and majority shareholder.

The museum was closed to the public in October 1988. It never reopened, nor was its business resumed elsewhere. Its premises were disposed of for residential development on September 28, 1989.

The critical question was whether for section 69 purposes the museum's business had ceased to be carried on by September 28, 1989. The commissioners found that it had not. Their findings on that critical issue were that it had not been the intention of the directors of the company at the end of October 1988 for the museum to close permanently or to cease trading.

Mr Woolf had accepted that at the time of closure no final determination that the business would be terminated had been taken. He had accepted, too, that up to and beyond the date of the disposal on September 1989 the same state of mind had pertained, the continuing intention of recommencing the aircraft museum at new premises at some time in the future.

Mr Woolf said, however, that the case did fall within section 69: whatever the intention was in the period October 1988 to September 28, 1989, and notwithstanding the intention of resuming business at new premises at some time, the fact of the matter was that business never was resumed. Looked at with hindsight, he submitted, it could be seen that the closure of the museum in October 1988 did in fact represent the cessation of business activities.

Mr Brennan emphasised the importance of the intention during the relevant period not to close or to cease trading.

His Lordship said that authorities for guidance as to the approach to be adopted to a determination of the question whether there had been a cessation of company's business had been referred to: *Kirk and Randall Ltd v Dunn* ((1924) 8 TC 663); *Wild v Madame Tussaud's Ltd* ((1926) 17 TC 127); *Ingram and Sons Ltd v Callaghan* ([1969] 1 WLR 456) and *Robroyston Brickworks Ltd v IRC* ([1976] STC 329).

But it was a common feature of all those cases that the original business had been followed by a new business. The present case was different. A new business did not follow. The business was never resumed.

The intention of the directors that the closure should only be temporary should not have the same significance and importance as the like intention in the cited cases.

If an intended temporary cessation of business was not followed by a resumption of business, the intention was not fulfilled and the intended temporary cessation would turn out to have been permanent.

If, in such a case, the question was posed "when did the business cease to be carried on?" the only possible answer was that it ceased to be carried on when the cessation, intended to be temporary but transpiring to be permanent, took place.

If trade was closed down on a basis intended to be only temporary but that became in the event permanent, the date for section 69 purposes when the trade ceased to be carried on was the date on which the trade was closed down.

Solicitors: Anstey Sargent & Probert, Exeter; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Fire brigade liable to owner

Capital and Counties plc and Another v Hampshire County Council

Before Judge Richard Havery, QC

[Judgment March 28]

A fire brigade was liable for the negligent act of one of its officers in ordering that a sprinkler system in a burning building be turned off. The brigade was not immune from liability to the owner of the building on the ground of public policy.

Judge Richard Havery, QC, so held when sitting on official referee's business he gave judgment for the plaintiffs, Capital and Counties plc and Digital Equipment Company Ltd, against Hampshire County Council for damages to be assessed resulting from the destruction by fire of The Crescent, Jays Close, Basingstoke of which the first and second plaintiffs were the head lessee and the underlessee respectively.

Mr John Slater, QC, Mr Simon Brown, QC and Mr Alexander Antelme for the first plaintiff; Mr John Slater, QC, Mr Nigel Tozzi and Mr Alexander Gunning for the second plaintiff; Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Robert Beecroft for the council.

HIS LORDSHIP said the plaintiff's main complaint in the action was that a fire officer at the scene had ordered the shutting down of a sprinkler system serving the roof space of the building. The officer concerned had without justification concluded that the system did not serve the roof space.

Mr Munby had submitted that the brigade was immune from action on the ground of public policy by analogy with the position of the police service in *Alexandrou v Oxford* ([1993] 4 All ER 325).

In his Lordship's judgment, considerations similar to those specifically referable to the investigation and suppression of crime did not apply with anything like the same force to the fire-fighting activities of a fire brigade.

Potential liability was unlikely to lead to fire-fighting being carried on a defensive frame of mind. Decisions made on site in fighting a fire were entirely operational and did not require decisions on questions of priority in the allocation of resources between one fire and another.

The fire brigade's exclusive control of its operations was a consideration against immunity on the ground of public policy and it was fair, just and reasonable that a duty of care to owners of burning property should exist.

Solicitors: Cameron Markby Hewitt; Mr Peter Robertson, Winchester.

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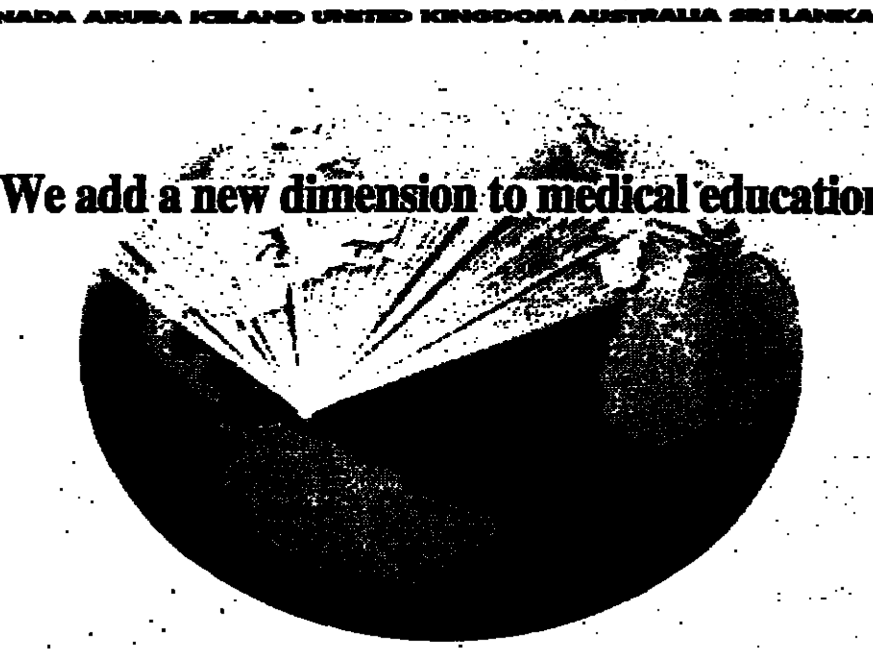

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Runners up to 5 hours, 22 minutes, 13 sec

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The Times continues its exclusive coverage of the 1996 Flora *London Marathon* with the names of competitors who finished inside 5 hours, 22 *minutes* and 13 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, official suppliers of computers to the race. The names and times of the other finishers will be continued *tomorrow*.

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22,601 G Bradford 5:19:38; E Wharton 5:19:38; A Toplis 5:19:38; G Johnson 5:19:40; M Humphreys 5:19:41; P Carroll 5:19:41; A Parry 5:19:42; P Bell 5:19:43; M Sudo 5:19:44; R Witts 5:19:44; P Yianni 5:19:44; S Cheetham 5:19:45; B Welfare 5:19:46; A Bion 5:19:48; L Oliver 5:19:48; L Veronelli 5:19:49; R Hoyle 5:19:49; J McCormick 5:19:53; A Bartlett 5:19:54; N Jones 5:19:54; D Hanney 5:19:56; E Astwood 5:19:56; P Frimond 5:19:57; E Mahoney 5:19:58; S Page 5:19:58; E Jupp 5:19:58; K Jupp 5:19:58; R Olsson 5:19:59; R Granberg 5:19:59; E Cousins 5:19:59; J Meehan 5:20:00; L Smith 5:20:00; J Chambers 5:20:00; H De Vrind 5:20:00; K Cooper 5:20:01; K Schuler 5:20:03; C McDonnell 5:20:04; M Noaro 5:20:04; D Hilton 5:20:05; M Yard 5:20:06; D Hutchins 5:20:06; R Sandercock 5:20:07; G Ingram 5:20:07; R Brooman 5:20:08; S Swinnerton 5:20:08; P Zighmi 5:20:08; M Jennings 5:20:08; A Parkin 5:20:08; J Barrow 5:20:08; J Passey 5:20:10; S Gray 5:20:10; K Salem 5:20:10; K Stratos 5:20:11; J Peckneid 5:20:11; T Walker 5:20:13; R May 5:20:13; G Seed 5:20:13; J Broomhead 5:20:14; J Holden 5:20:14; V Philippe 5:20:14; R Ooi 5:20:14; S Campbell 5:20:14; J Dawson 5:20:14; R Sherman 5:20:14; M Herd 5:20:15; C Herd 5:20:15; R Barry 5:20:16; B Dowd 5:20:19; D Walton 5:20:21; N Fowke 5:20:21; B Thomas 5:20:22; M Capell 5:20:23; T Lane 5:20:24; S Boehm 5:20:25; S Sutheran 5:20:25; K Bradshaw 5:20:26; P Byrne 5:20:28; L Boychard 5:20:28; M Crooks 5:20:29; J Prestwich 5:20:31; C Walker 5:20:31; L Biddle 5:20:32; A Bond 5:20:32; B Arigho 5:20:32; J Cook 5:20:33; C Houghton 5:20:35; P Houghton 5:20:35; J Fargeas 5:20:36; S Quayle 5:20:36; I Maggs 5:20:36; A Van Schooten 5:20:38; G Leicester 5:20:38; J Cooper 5:20:39; S Hercock 5:20:39; C Phelan 5:20:41; R Angel 5:20:42; A Hoppers 5:20:42; F Cruz 5:20:43; R Myhill 5:20:45; R Haynes 5:20:45.

22,701 L Styles 5:20:47; E Hanson 5:20:47; I Styles 5:20:47; A Smith 5:20:48; J Newcombe 5:20:49; S Wyatt 5:20:49; J Maxwell 5:20:50; N Hart 5:20:50; J Watkins 5:20:51; E Roussel 5:20:51; W Stott 5:20:51; T Collins 5:20:52; J Barham 5:20:52; A Sargent 5:20:53; D Speedy 5:20:53; M Watts 5:20:54; V Masterson 5:20:55; M Perry 5:20:56; P Labl 5:20:57; P Johnson 5:20:57; M Halsey 5:20:58; E Mundal 5:20:59; K Hales 5:21:00; E Jackson 5:21:02; M Buckley 5:21:02; C Newton 5:21:02; A Khaliq 5:21:02; A Jenkins 5:21:04; J Stewart 5:21:05; S Toffolo 5:21:05; J Downey 5:21:05; K Mills 5:21:06; C Macdonald 5:21:06; P Rich 5:21:06; S Dickinson 5:21:06; P Skinner 5:21:06; J Carey 5:21:07; I Reader 5:21:08; M Carey 5:21:08; L Moy 5:21:08; D Burbidge 5:21:09; D Wheeler 5:21:10; K Fraser 5:21:11; S Pedler 5:21:11; C Gandy 5:21:11; J Lambert 5:21:11; R Green 5:21:11; R Sinfield 5:21:11; C Bishop 5:21:11; G Harrington 5:21:11; P Twombly 5:21:11; E Styles 5:21:12; J Butcher 5:21:12; I Don 5:21:15; J Principle 5:21:16; T Holland 5:21:17; N Trebilcock 5:21:17; C Tyrrell 5:21:17; K Buckingham 5:21:18; A Kennedy 5:21:19; B Holbrook 5:21:19; K Ficken 5:21:28; W Chamberlain 5:21:28; R Johansson 5:21:28; J Perry 5:21:30; K Batt 5:21:30; T Wood 5:21:31; P McGregor 5:21:32; B Backhouse 5:21:32; M Scragg 5:21:33; A Weldon 5:21:33; P De Oliveira 5:21:33; K Martin 5:21:34; B Jameson 5:21:34; G Fuller 5:21:35; J Fowler 5:21:35; H Le Seur 5:21:35; S Greenstreet 5:21:35; F Delves 5:21:35; E Druot 5:21:35; N Lamb 5:21:35; D Warner 5:21:35; P McMahon 5:21:35; J Alkins 5:21:36; G Holden 5:21:36; J Adcock 5:21:36; P Bradford 5:21:36; G Parsons 5:21:39; S Wren 5:21:40; R Norley 5:21:41; R Douthwaite 5:21:41; D Wiggin 5:21:43; J Mason 5:21:44; R Kuhl 5:21:44; M Miller 5:21:44; J Kleinstub 5:21:45; M Sharpe 5:21:46; P Pledge 5:21:46; R Jones 5:21:46; S Young 5:21:48.

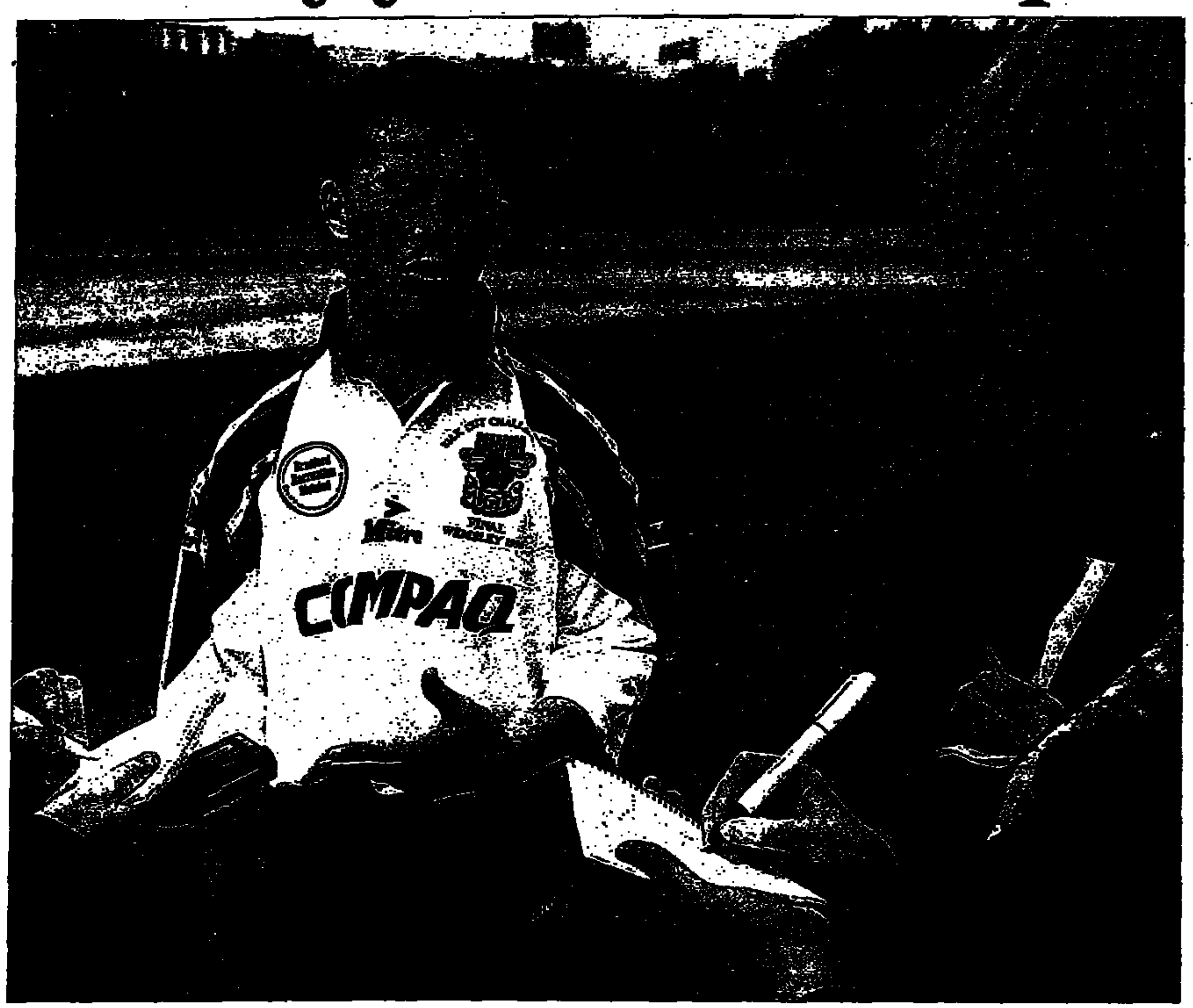
22,801 B Tennyson 5:21:50; B Potter 5:21:50; D Morgan 5:21:51; B Innocent 5:21:52; C Taylor 5:21:52; D Reeve 5:21:53; R Wilkinson 5:21:53; T Lewis 5:21:53; R Evans 5:21:53; J Simmons 5:21:54; T Lynch 5:21:54; S McCurdie 5:21:56; P Andrew 5:21:56; N Owen 5:21:56; S Green 5:21:56; M Kerr 5:21:56; M Takayanagi 5:21:58; A Fearn 5:21:58; J Darley 5:21:58; R Oneill 5:21:59; D Wiles 5:22:00; M Airaghi 5:22:01; N Coppen 5:22:03; J Kerr 5:22:03; J Gamblin 5:22:03; A Couch 5:22:03; P Fairgrieve 5:22:03; A Avery 5:22:03; L Leslie 5:22:03; G Brugneaux 5:22:04; N Finch 5:22:05; J Miller 5:22:06; R Leslie 5:22:08; M Lewis 5:22:08; E Nokes 5:22:09; S Forrest 5:22:10; L Hoskin 5:22:11; W Smith 5:22:13.

swatch
OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER AND PARTNER OF THE 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES

Bradford captain stands on verge of Wembley record

Paul leads by youthful example

By Christopher Irvine



Paul, revelling in the captain's role, looks forward to the cup final yesterday. Photograph: John Houlihan

THERE is more to the elfin-featured Robbie Paul than meets the eye. He cut his first record recently, writes songs, paints, is a student of fine art, teaches children about healthy living and, tomorrow, will lead Bradford Bulls as the youngest captain at Wembley in a rugby league Challenge Cup final. Everything, it seems, but sit on a mushroom, where he looks to belong.

Few have packed as much as Paul, a New Zealander, into 20 years and three months. He has two daughters — Jesha, two, and Mia, five months — and a young man coping with such responsibilities was quickly made central to the plans at Bradford of Brian Smith, the Australian coach, who awarded him the dual role of scrum half and captain. Until Smith's arrival, Paul had tried in vain to convince Peter Fox, his predecessor, surviving on a thin ration of first-team appearances.

"To me, it was like stumbling on an undiscovered gem," Smith said. "I can't remember a kid like him. Self-aware, totally together, who has rugby league as his passion, while knowing it's his meal ticket. He's not yet the finished article as a player, but he's one with very special talents."

Paul was initially uncertain about his future under Smith. "At the start of the centenary season, I was one of five New Zealanders," he said. "One by one, they went, until there were all these Aussies around me. There were two ways to take it. I thought I'd just stamp my mark, Brian liked it and things have not been going too bad since."

Growing up in the Auckland suburb of Te Atutu, Robbie and Henry Paul, his older brother now at Wigan, would sneak out of bed to watch the Challenge Cup live from the other side of the world. Henry won there last year and his advice to his sibling is straightforward: "An early touch of the ball, an early tackle and don't look up at the crowd."

Spinning like a mini whirlwind out of the tackle has become a family trademark, but, whereas Henry is the opportunist *par excellence* in exploiting opposition weaknesses, the stripling Robbie, 5ft 10in and 12½st, is a more structured player, who finds gaps for others by a change of direction, shake of the hips or supremely-judged pass.

With Robbie over a jittery early period before settling into the scrum half position that he previously played at school, the prospect for New Zealand of both Paul brothers lining up at half back is more than just intriguing. Like brothers do, they fought, but, having settled in England, find themselves best friends.

It was a fingers and thumbs performance by Robbie when the brothers met in Bradford's game away to Wigan a week ago. St Helens will be hoping for the same at Wembley, but are likely to be disappointed by a young man who takes his captain's duties seriously, although responsibility is shared. "If we're behind the sticks, I can't tell Graeme Bradley what to do," he said. "He's been around the game long enough to know what's going on."

The label of the youngest captain — Shaun Edwards was 21 years and six months when he led Wigan to victory in 1988 — is one that someone who has been forced to grow up early is undaunted by. Indeed, Paul speaks like someone much older. "People my age perhaps like to get on the drink or party, but I just get on with the job, because I've got two mouths to feed," he said.

To the children who go to Odsal to hear Paul's anti-drugs message, advice on good health and his cultural lessons, the player not that much older than themselves has become a role model at a club that, only a year ago, did not really bother with the diverse community around it. It was with some regret that he had to drop out of a course at Dewsbury Art College because of Smith's demands on his players' time, but, on and off the field, Paul continues to set fine examples.

The Challenge Cup will continue to be televised by the BBC for the next three years under a reported £3 million deal struck with the Rugby Football League in which the springtime date of the final is retained. A move to mid-summer in line with the new Super League had been mooted. The agreement gives Sky Television the right to show highlights for the first time.

O'Sullivan displays world championship potential

By Phil Yates

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, who controversially played a sequence of left-handed shots on the way to victory over Alain Robidoux in the first round of the Embassy world snooker championship five days ago, adopted a more conventional, if equally spectacular, approach, on his return to the Crucible Theatre yesterday.

In building a 6-2 lead over Tony Drago, of Malta, in the last 16, O'Sullivan showcased the ease of break-building that has led him to be regarded as a serious threat to the continued dominance of Stephen Hendry, the title-holder.

O'Sullivan could face a charge of bringing the game into disrepute after derogatory and ill-advised comments about Robidoux and there were those who thought that this would adversely affect his performance against Drago. They were wrong.

Drago, himself convincing in beating Steve James 10-2 in the first round, made an encouraging start. He recovered from a 58-11 deficit to steal the opening frame on the black with a 58 clearance and entered the mid-session interval at 2-2 thanks to a 144 total clearance. That matched the highest break of Drago's career and an opening-day run from Peter Ebdon as the highest break of the 1996 championship. Drago is thus in line for a half share of the £17,000 sponsors' bonus.

However, Drago is as erratic as he is talented and mistakes began to creep in. Leading 49-37 in the fifth frame, Drago missed a relatively straightforward red and O'Sullivan cleared with 32. Worse was to follow in the sixth frame. O'Sullivan opened the scoring with a 62 break, Drago responded with 57 but missed a simple pink when only that, plus the black, would have enabled him to level it 3-3. O'Sullivan then accounted for the closing two frames of the afternoon with breaks of 100 and 120.

James Wattana retained his place in the game's top 16 next season, but his 10-8 win over Jimmy Michie, of Pontefract, severely tested the out-of-form Thai. Although he trailed 5-4 overnight, Wattana appeared to have weathered the storm by establishing a 9-6 advantage.

O'Sullivan: impressive

Michie refused to capitulate, though, and, when he pulled back to 8-9, thoughts of being involved in the summer preliminary rounds for next seasons ranking events — the lot of those outside the top 16 — must have been uppermost in Wattana's mind. It was therefore with immense relief that Wattana comfortably won the eighteenth frame to set up a meeting with Nigel Bond.

☐ John Spencer, the chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), the game's governing body, could have compromised his position by betting on a number of matches at leading tournaments. An article in the *Daily Express* yesterday quoted Stan James, a bookmaker, as saying that Spencer has also "acted as an intermediary for the players on occasions" by placing bets on their behalf.

Nothing illegal has taken place and no results or scores have been manipulated in any way. However, it is traditional that the chairman is appointed at the first board meeting of the WPBSA after the championship and this will have done harm to Spencer's chances of re-election.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (AFL): Collingwood 17 15 (117) bt Essendon 16 9 (105).

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 24 Detroit 11; Boston 11 Texas 9, California 4 Milwaukee 3, New York 10 Cleveland 8, Oakland 7 Toronto 6; Chicago 2 Seattle 1, Baltimore 11 Kansas City 8
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 6 Florida 3 Montreal 7 Cincinnati 6, St Louis 9 New York 4, Colorado 8 Philadelphia 10; San Francisco 3 Atlanta 8; Los Angeles 5 Houston 2; San Diego 5 Chicago 4.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: Canterbury: Lancashire 431-6 dec (P C McKeown 175, N T Wood 140) and 201-2 dec (N T Wood 87 not out); Kent 325-8 dec (J H Baldock 80, S C Willis 60, E J Stanford 52) and 263-9 (R Key 96, S C Willis 51, D J Shadford 5 for 56). Match drawn.
UNIVERSITY MATCH (50 overs): Warwickshire 355-7 (N V Knight 128, D P Ostler 63, P A Smith 51); British Universities 187-8

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 0 Croatia 0 (at Wembley). Czech Republic 2 Ireland 0 (at Erosickeho Stadium, Prague); Denmark 2 Scotland 0 (at Parken Stadium, Copenhagen), Northern Ireland 1 Sweden 2 (at Windsor Park, Belfast), Switzerland 2 Wales 0 (at Comaredo Stadium, Lugano); Belgium 0 Russia 0 (in Brussels); Bosnia 0 Albania 0 (in Zenica); Chile 3 Australia 0 (in Antofagasta); Holland 0 Germany 1 (in Rotterdam); Hungary 0 Austria 2 (in Budapest); Iceland 3 Estonia 0 (in Tallinn); Norway 0 Spain 0 (in Oslo); Romania 5 Georgia 0 (in Bucharest): South Africa 2 Brazil 3 (in Johannesburg), Slovakia 0 Bulgaria 0 (in Trnava).
WORLD CUP: Qualifying matches: Europe: Group one: Greece 2 Slovenia 0 (in Athens). Group six: Yugoslavia 3 Faeroe Islands 1 (in Belgrade). Group eight: Macedonia 3 Liechtenstein 0 (in Skopje) South America: Argentina 3 Bolivia 1 (in Buenos Aires), Colombia 1 Paraguay 0 (at Baranquilla): Uruguay 2 Venezuela 0 (at Caracas), Ecuador 4 Peru 1 (at Guayaquil)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Gateshead 2 Southport 2.
SPALDING CUP: Final, first leg: Macclesfield 1 Bromsgrove 1
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Newport AFC 0 Merthyr 0, Salisbury 0 Rushden and Diamonds 2; VS Rugby 1 Crawley Town 4
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde United 1 Guiseley 1. First division: Farsley Celtic 3 Netherfield 1. Postponed: Worksop v Ashton United.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace 1 Wimbledon 3; Millwall 2 Charlton 0; Queens Park Rangers 4 Bristol City 2. Official correction: Swindon 1 Norwich 3.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Manchester United 2 Newcastle United 0; Nottingham Forest 0 Sheffield Wednesday 4: Oldham Athletic 1 Liverpool 1; Tranmere 4 Sheffield United 2: West Bromwich 2 Notts County 0 Second division: Barnsley 4 Leicester 0: Huddersfield 4 Grimsby 2; Port Vale 2 Aston Villa 3; Rotherham 1 Blackpool 2 Third division: Carlisle 2 Darlington 1: Chester 2 Scarborough 0, Chesterfield 3 Scunthorpe 2, Shrewsbury 2 Doncaster 0, Walsall 0 Wrexham 3. Wigan 0 Stockport County 4
LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran 2 Ton Pentre 2.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett 0 Durham 0; Ferryhill 0 Seaham Red Star 1; Whickham 0 Crook 4.
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Kintbury 0 Brackley 1; Lambourn Sports 4 Didcot 0.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Athletic 1 Toddington 4, Hatfield 3 Potters Bar 0
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Mile Oak 0 Shoreham 2; Wick 4 Pagham 1.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 1 Thamesmead 2: Furness 1 Slade Green 1.
SCHOOLS MATCH: English Reed Trophy: Hampshire 3 Dorset 0.
GERMAN LEAGUE: Hamburg 2 Bayer Leverkusen 2.
PORTUGUESE CUP: Semi-final replay: Sporting 1 Porto 0 (aet).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Play-offs: First round: Eastern Conference: Florida 4 Boston 2 (Florida lead best-of-seven series 3-0); Washington 2 Pittsburgh 3 (series tied 2-2).
VIENNA: World championship: Pool A: Austria 2 Slovakia 1 Pool B: Sweden 2 France 1; Norway 2 Czech Republic 2: Finland 6 France 3.

GOLF

EL SALER CLUB, Valencia: Turespaña Masters: Early first round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 66: F Tarnaud (Fr), R McFarlane, D Borrego (Sp). 67: P Baker, T Johnstone (Zim), N Briggs, A Cabrera (Arg). 68: C Hall, R Burns, A Sherborne, O Karlsson (Swe). 69: I Garrido (Sp), C Cevaer (Fr), W Riley (Aus), G Turner (NZ), W Westner (SA), R Chapman, 1 Pyman, C Suneson (Sp). 70: D Gilford, C Rocca (It), F Cea (Sp), D Feherty, * A Pastrana (Sp), J Robson. 71: J Payne, E Romero (Arg). M Gronberg (Swe), L Westwood, M Besanceney (Fr), J Lomas, M Farry (Fr), J Van de Velde (Fr), A Collison, M Pinero (Sp), J Haeggman (Swe), S Bottomley, C O'Connor jr, E Darcy, D Howell, D Smyth, M Davis, P Harrington 72: P Walton, R Rafferty, H Buhrmann (SA), G Nicklaus (US), F Lindgren (Swe), F Roca (Sp), M McLean, J Cabo (Sp), R Drummond, S Cage, J Guepy (Fr), J Coceres (Arg), M Martin (Sp), A Hunter, P Broadhurst, D Hospital (Sp), F Valera (Sp). 73: T Gogele (Ger), S Gallacher, I Moral (Sp), S Torrance, J Bickerton, S Tinning (Den), M Mackenzie, T Munoz (Sp), P McGinley, P Hedblom (Swe), P-U Johansson (Swe), G Emerson, R Russell, J Canizares (Sp), M Roe, D Carter. 74: S Field, S Webster, S Luna (Sp), H Clark, P Nyman (Swe), O Rojahn (Nor), P O'Malley (Aus), M Wills, P Way, * S Garcia (Sp), R Boxall, M-A Jimenez (Sp). G Brand jr, J Sandelin (Swe), J Quiros (Sp), J McHenry, J Rozadilla (Sp), O Edmond (Fr). 75: D J Russell, C Beautell (Sp), P Lawrie, D A Russell, P Moloney (Aus), P Mitchell, G Chalmers (Aus), R Dinsdale. 76: M Welch, F Howley, D Williams, P Golding, S Ballesteros (Sp), S McAllister, A Oldcorn, J Garcia (Sp), Y Beamonte (Sp), T Price (Aus), J Arruti (Sp), I Feliu (Sp), R Muntz (Holl), D Cooper. 77: R Willison, G Clark, R Goosen (SA), E Bolognesi (It), P Fulke (Swe), M Hallberg (Swe), E Giraud (Fr), A Garrido (Sp), M Lanner (Swe). 78: K Eriksson (Swe), M Jonzon (Swe), * J Aguero (Sp). 79: A Lebouc (Fr), T Planchin (Fr), M Clayton (Aus).

* denotes amateur

REAL TENNIS

SEACOURT, Hayling Island: British Land national women's championship: First round: P Danby bt C Armstrong-Smith 6-4, 6-0; L Bamfield bt I Tufnell 6-1, 6-0, S Macintosh bt S Owers 6-5, 6-4. Second round: P Lumley bt Danby 6-0, 6-0; A Cockcroft bt Bamfield 6-1, 6-1, A Garside bt S Day 6-0, 6-0; F Metherell bt M Pignon 6-0, 6-0; S Haswell bt F Syson 6-0, 6-0.

RIFLE SHOOTING

KINGSTON: Jamaica Centenary meeting: Empire match (300, 600, 900 and 1,000yds; teams of 12): 1, Great Britain 2,273pts; 2, Canada 2,269; 3, West Indies 2,251. Short range (Queen's II, teams of 8): 1, Canada 1,160; 2, Great Britain 1,156
BULAWAYO: Army TRC Tour: Individual: Stage I: 1, C Cheshire (ATRC) 104 14; 2, E Rosenfels (Matabeleland) 101.9; 3, K Seagar (Matabeleland) 99.7. Stage II: 1, Cheshire 102.9; 2, M Reid (ATRC) 101 7; 3, Seagar 99 7 Stage III: 1, Cheshire 100.9; 2, M van Aswegan (Matabeleland) 99.9; 3 I Ritchie (Matabeland) 98 9. Grand aggregate: 1, Cheshire 306 32; 2, Seagar 294 25; 3, R Newman (ATRC) 294 24 Team match: 1, Army TRC Z 780.59; 2, Matabeleland A 774.46; 3, Army TRC Y 751.44

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Leicester 28 Gloucester 6
HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Bridgend 48 Newport 17.
CLUB MATCHES: Cardiff 41 Pontypool 28; Preston Grasshoppers 19 Blackburn 25 Postponed: Cardiff Inst v Newport.

SNOOKER

CRUCIBLE THEATRE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship (England unless stated): First round: J Wattana (Thai) bt J Michie 10-8. Second round: R O'Sullivan leads A Drago (Malta) 6-2.

TENNIS

MONTE CARLO: Men's tournament: Second round: P Korda (Cz) bt B Ulrach (Cz) 6-1, 6-2; R Krajicek (Holl) bt S Edberg (Swe) 0-6, 6-4, 6-2; M Rios (Chile) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; C Costa (Sp) bt M Chang (US) 6-7, 6-2, 6-4; J Sánchez (Sp) bt J Courier (US) 6-3, 6-3. Third round: T Muster (Austria) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-2, 7-6; A Costa (Sp) bt A Agassi (US) 6-2, 6-1; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt F Santoro (Fr) 7-6, 6-1; F Mantilla (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4; M Rios (Chile) bt B Becker (Ger) 6-4, 6-3; C Costa (Sp) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-4, 6-1; C Pioline (Fr) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 4-6, 6-0, 6-2; S Schalken (Holl) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 7-5, 6-7, 6-4.
SEOUL: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 7-5, 4-6, 6-2; M Damm (Cz) bt G Rusedski (GB) 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.
EDINBURGH: Spring satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Men: First round: J Delgado bt M Wyeth 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; S Bandermann (Ger) bt D Ward 6-3, 6-4; D Sapsford bt S Pender 6-4, 6-4; T Schiessling (Austria) bt J Barnett 6-1, 6-4; A Richardson bt C Bennett 6-4, 6-0; A Parmar bt N Beglin 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; T Spinks bt M Turkovic (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-1; M Goodarz (Aus) bt P Hand 1-6, 6-2, 6-0; P Moschoutis (Gr) bt D Draper 6-2, 6-7, 6-2; R Barbier (Fr) bt G Steenkamp (SA) 6-3, 6-2; R Nicklish (Ger) bt W Treu (Austria) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6; P Kilderry (Aus) bt R Matheson 3-6, 6-2, 6-3; F Dondo (Uru) bt O Burrieza (Sp) 6-1, 7-5; D Sanders bt M Boulding 6-2, 6-3; A Du Puis (Fr) bt J Davidson 6-3, 6-4; P Pala (Cz) bt V Sundaram 6-3 6-4. Second round: Delgado bt Goodarz 6-0, 6-2; Moschoutis bt S Bandermann (Ger) 6-4, 6-2.Delgado bt Goodarz 6-0, 6-2: Moschoutis bt S Bandermann (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; Sapsford bt Barbier 6-2, 6-4; Schiessling bt Nicklish 6-3, 6-1; Kilderry bt Spinks 6-4, 6-3; Dondo bt Sanders 6-3, 6-0; Du Puis bt Pala 6-3, 7-5; Parmar bt Richardson 1-6, 7-6, 6-2. Women: Second round: J Steck (SA) bt L Woodroffe 6-2, 6-4; R Mawdsley (Aus) bt M Marsina (Russ) 6-2, 2-6, 6-0; K Balekova (Cz) bt J Pullin 6-2, 6-4; J Ward bt V Davies 6-2, 6-1; A Tordoff bt N Barkan (Isr) 6-3, 6-1. Quarter-finals: Steck bt K Kamer (Ger) 6-2, 6-1; Balekova bt Mawdsley 6-3, 6-2; Ward bt Tordoff 6-3, 6-3.
LA MANGA, Spain: Fed Cup: Europe/Africa: Group one: Russia 3 Sweden 0; Switzerland 2 Hungary 1; Croatia 3 Romania 0; Belorussia 3 Italy 0.

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THUNDERER
5.45 Just For A Reason. 6.15 Philip's Woody. 6.45 Mim-Lou-And. 7.15 Sound Forecast. 7.45 Tuffnut George. 8.15 Akiymann.

Carl Evans: 7.45 Tuffnut George.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

5.45 HARRIS ALLDAY LEA AND BROOKS NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£2,070: 2m) (18 runners)

1 080P BRITANNIA MILLS 13 (F) M Chapman 5-11-3 — G Supple (7)
2 3331 OUT RANKING 16 (F,S) (D) M Pipe 4-11-3 — J Lower
3 -38P DANCING AT LAHARN 62 Miss S Wilton 6-11-2 — M Wilkinson (7)
4 000/ DUKE OF BUDWORTH 709 M Sheppard 6-11-2 — D Walsh (3)
5 55- HARRY 76F A J Wilson 5-11-2 — J F Titley
6 NEEDWOOD CUBE 570F J Wall 5-11-2 — R Massey (5)
7 55- NICK THE BISCUIT 13F (S) R Phillips 5-11-2 — J Railton
8 000 TUG YOUR FORELOCK 18 G Johnson Houghton 5-11-2 — G Bradley
9 PP00 WALTER'S LAD 23 B Preece 5-11-2 — Gary Lyons
10 00U GOOD GOING GAME 17 A Jacks 5-10-11 — S Wynne
11 0600 LADY LOIS 37 B Preece 5-10-11 — D Finnegan (7)
12 PP00 SISTER ELLY 15 T Wall 5-10-11 — C Llewellyn
13 00 FRANS LAD 16 M Cury 4-10-12 — Guy Lewis (3)
14 0/3 JUST FOR A REASON 12 (S) (CD,BF) R Juckes 4-10-10 — M A Fitzgerald
15 KOMBAMANTE 41F D Burchell 4-10-10 — D J Burchell
16 PP PRUE'S PROBLEM 11 (S) J Mackie 4-10-10 — E Husband (3)
17 03PP ROSCOMMON LAD 51 (S) R Hollinshead 4-10-10 — L Aspell (5)
18 U0 ENDLESS FANTASY 20 J Price 4-10-5 — J R Kavanagh

9-4 Out Ranking, 7-2 Just For A Reason, 15-2 Nick The Biscuit, 7-1 Britannia Mills, 10-1 Harry, Kombamante, 12-1 others.

6.15 BROMFIELD SAND AND GRAVEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,525: 2m 4f) (8)

1 2222 PHILIP'S WOODY 52 (CD,F,G,S) N Henderson 8-11-10 — J R Kavanagh
2 150P BLUSTERY FELLOW 144 (CD,F,G) N Twiston-Davies 11-10-9 — C Llewellyn
3 2005 HURRYUP 59 (F,S) R Dickin 9-10-5 — Mr J Culloty (3)
4 1233 GOLDEN MADJAMBO 23 (CD,F) F Jordan 10-10-4 — J Lodder
5 2-U2 HOWGILL 11 (BF,F,S) T Forster 10-10-3 — S Wynne
6 R644 MAPLE DANCER 44 (D,F,G) D Sasse 10-10-0 — Mr G Shenkin (7)
7 2303 CHANNEL PASTIME 18 (G) D Burchell 12-10-0 — Guy Lewis (3)
8 P165 MANAMOUR 195 (F) R Lee 9-10-0 — R Johnson (3)

2-1 Howgill, 9-4 Philip's Woody, 9-2 Channel Pastime, 6-1 Hurryup, 10-1 Golden Madjambo, 14-1 Blustery Fellow, 20-1 others.

6.45 D J PROFILES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,560: 2m) (12)

1 5-50 MONDAY CLUB 50 (D,F,G,S) J Tuck 12-12-0 — S McNeill
2 101- SHERWOOD BOY 387 (CD,F,G) K Bailey 7-12-0 — T J Murphy (3)
3 4100 TRADE WIND 16 (B,F) J O'Shea 5-11-5 — Michael Brennan (7)
4 1/61 MOAT GARDEN 50 (D,F,S) I Balding 8-11-4 — G Bradley
5 0512 MIM-LOU-AND 28 (CD,BF,G) Miss H Knight 4-11-2 — Mr J Culloty (3)
6 426- LEGAL ARTIST 470 (G) Miss C Johnsey 6-11-1 — R Farrant
7 3402 FORGETFUL 18 (CD,BF,F,G) D Burchell 7-10-9 — D J Burchell
8 4-50 OZZIE JONES 13 (CD,F) M Chapman 5-10-9 — W Worthington
9 0012 ROSGILL 18 (D,F,S) Mrs M Jones 10-10-5 — D Byrne
10 0000 BIREQUEST 16 C Mann 5-10-0 — J Railton
11 P33- ALDINGTON CHAPPLE 370 (D,F,G) B Preece 8-10-0 — Gary Lyons
12 60-0 HAMANAKA 11 (D,S) T Donnelly 7-10-0 — J R Kavanagh

11-4 Moat Garden, 4-1 Mim-Lou-And, 9-2 Rosgill, 5-1 Sherwood Boy, 7-1 Birequest, 8-1 Forgetful, 10-1 Legal Artist, 16-1 others.

7.15 SHROPSHIRE REGIMENTS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,363: 3m) (13)

1 132U SHINING LIGHT 11 (C,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-10 — R Johnson (3)
2 138F CROPREDY LAD 29 (D,F) P Webber 9-11-6 — G Bradley
3 3125 PERHAPS 25 (G,S) Miss H Knight 5-11-1 — J F Titley
4 3024 POPPEA 16 (BF,F) T Forster 7-10-10 — S Wynne
5 -1P1 ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 16 (D,F,G) Mrs M Jones 7-10-6 — D Byrne
6 0063 SOUND FORECAST 16 (S) Mrs S Johnson 8-10-5 — D Walsh (3)
7 6115 BOXING MATCH 16 (F,G,S) J Bradley 9-10-4 — Guy Lewis (3)
8 2F4F AIRTRAK 44 (D,F) N Henderson 7-10-2 — M A Fitzgerald
9 062P CHALIE RICHARDS 18 (BF) Mrs L Williamson 9-10-0 — S McNeill
10 0062 JUST ONE CANALETTO 17 (S) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0 — C Llewellyn
11 6U33 GOD SPEED YOU 62 (B) C Nash 7-10-0 — J R Kavanagh
12 -4P4 EYRE POINT 20 Mrs J Pitman 7-10-0 — R Farrant
13 FFF0 KHAKI LIGHT 16 J Pickering 8-10-0 — W Worthington

3-1 Zambezi Spirit, 4-1 Sound Forecast, 11-2 Cropredy Lad, 7-1 Just One Canaletto, 8-1 Shining Light, Boxing Match, 10-1 Perhaps, 12-1 others.

7.45 STRONGBOW HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,725: 2m 4f) (17)

1 PU1P AFALTOUN 18P (F,G,S) J Porter 11-12-7 — T Lacey (7)
2 P-34 AMARI KING 6 (D,F,G,S) J Wall 12-12-7 — C Ward Thomas (7)
3 6511 FAMILIAR FRIEND 18 (B,F,S) S Gilmore 10-12-7 — L Lay (7)
4 2P-U FOX POINTER 37 (F,S) Mrs L Evans 11-12-7 — J Jukes (7)
5 P-1P HALHAM TARN 18P (S) H Manners 6-12-7 — A Charles-Jones (7)
6 2F23 A WINDY CITIZEN 11 (D,F,G,S) Mrs C Hicks 7-12-2 — R Hicks (7)
7 5050 FLYING ZIAD 6 (D,F,G) Mrs S Stafford 13-12-0 — Miss D Olding (7)
8 -PPP HAYE BUSTER 6P (B) A Steel 11-12-0 — L Brown (7)
9 /PPP KING OF SHADOWS 6 (G) Miss C Cordes 9-12-0 — S Prior (7)
10 -422 KNIGHT'S SPUR 27P (F,G) Mrs M Henderson 9-12-0 — Mrs J Parris (7)
11 0P53 LAVALIGHT 38 (F) J Dufosee 9-12-0 — R Nuttall (7)
12 0/FP LUKE'S THE BIZZ 37 Miss I Dady 8-12-0 — C Maggs (7)
13 -U3F NO JOKER 49 (F,G) N Gaselee 6-12-0 — R Hall (7)
14 -P6P NO MORE THE FOOL 37 (G) Miss A Green 10-12-0 — L Brennan (7)
15 PP-P PARKINSON'S LAW 40P P Whiston 8-12-0 — M Worthington (7)
16 P64U TIPP DOWN 17P (S) Ms H Wallis 13-12-0 — R Thomas (7)
17 2P21 TUFFNUT GEORGE 20P (F,G,S) Mrs P Grainger 9-12-0 — A Phillips (7)

4-1 Familiar Friend, 11-2 Amari King, 6-1 Halham Tarn, 13-2 Tuffnut George, 7-1 Afaltoun, A Windy Citizen, 8-1 No Joker, 9-1 others.

8.15 CANNING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,415: 3m 2f 110yd) (15)

1 3P22 AKIYMANN 20 (V) M Pipe 6-11-0 — J Lower
2 0P00 BEAU QUEST 23 B Cambidge 9-11-0 — T J Murphy (3)
3 U2U4 INJUNCTION 60 (B,BF) C Mann 5-11-0 — J Railton
4 2FP0 MEGAMUNCH 18 (B) R Juckes 8-11-0 — M A Fitzgerald
5 0-6F PARISIAN 37 J Bennett 11-11-0 — Sophie Mitchell (5)
6 2/0F RUFFTRADE 68 T Forster 9-11-0 — S Wynne
7 5PR0 GUNNER B LUCKY 9 J Tuck 5-10-9 — R Bellamy
8 /63- LEADING SUPPLIER 383P Miss K Whitehouse 10-10-9 — Chris Webb (5)
9 0P5 MESPIL ROAD 18 G Johnson Houghton 6-10-9 — R Johnson (3)
10 PR NOT A PENNY 25 C Jones 10-10-9 — S Curran
11 0056 RIVERBANK ROSE 28 (V) W Clay 5-10-9 — Guy Lewis (3)
12 P0PP SNOW PRINCESS 18 (H,F) R Eckley 9-10-9 — N Mann
13 0060 SUMMER HAVEN 16 N Lampard 7-10-9 — D Walsh (3)
14 0P TROPWEN MARROY 27 B Preece 7-10-9 — Gary Lyons
15 500U WOEFUL LAKE 38 A J Wilson 5-10-9 — L Harvey

4-5 Akiymann, 7-2 Injunction, 5-1 Mespil Road, 8-1 Riverbank Rose, 14-1 Rufftrade, 20-1 Leading Supplier, 25-1 Parisian, 33-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 8 winners from 24 runners, 33.3%; D Nicholson, 25 from 91, 27.5%; K Bailey, 16 from 59, 27.1%; M Pipe, 16 from 82, 19.5%; T Forster, 12 from 75, 16.0%; Miss H Knight, 11 from 70, 15.7%.
JOCKEYS: R Massey, 5 winners from 21 rides, 23.8%; D J Burchell, 5 from 23, 21.7%; J Titley, 3 from 15, 20.0%; N Mann, 3 from 17, 17.6%; J Railton, 7 from 43, 16.3%; M A Fitzgerald, 9 from 57, 15.8%.

THUNDERER
5.30 Coeur Battant. 6.00 Jurz. 6.30 El Grando. 7.00 Mutual Trust. 7.30 Storm Run. 8.00 Cardinal Rule.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 6.30 SEVERN GALE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

5.30 [illegible] SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,910: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

1 0064 [illegible] — B Bridgwater
2 F-60 JUNCTION TWENTYTWO [illegible] — W Marston
3 F001 TALE A FLYER [illegible] — T Dascombe (3)
4 290P EIGLY 76 (F) [illegible] 4-10-13 — Mr J L Llewellyn
5 0-6P [illegible] — S Burrough
6 3P05 [illegible] — G Hogan (3)
7 8246 [illegible] — J Harris (7)
8 0PP0 NORDIC CROWN 24 (B,C,G,S) M Pipe 5-10-10 — D Burrows (7)
9 8P00 CLASSIC IMAGE 30 [illegible] — A Dowling (7)
10 0-03 COEUR BATTANT 16 (F) R Geller 6-10-6 — B Powell
11 3F00 TUDOR FLIGHT 18 A [illegible] 5-10-3 — A P McCoy
12 0300 VISION OF LIGHT 28 H Oliver 6-10-3 — Jacqui Oliver
13 40P0 [illegible] 37 (B) Mrs H Henderson 4-10-3 — D Salter (5)
14 -0PP SIMPLY A SEQUEL 13F C Jackson 5-10-2 — W Humphreys
15 0P00 [illegible] 18 J Bradley 6-10-0 — B Fenton (3)
16 -P0F FATHER'S JOY 15 Miss C Caroe 6-10-0 — J Lawrence

4-1 Tale A Flyer, 5-1 Kalik, Coeur Battant, 7-1 [illegible], 10-1 Eigly, Junction Twentytwo, Tudor Flight, 12-1 others.

6.00 HUSBANDS CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES CHASE (£3,132: 2m 3f) (12)

1 -011 JURZ 8 (C,G,S) R Hodges 8-12-4 — T Dascombe (3)
2 0P21 DRUMCULLEN 18 (F) K Bailey 7-11-11 — W McFarland
3 6313 WINSPIT 18 (BF,F,S) R Alner 6-11-11 — A P McCoy
4 2243 ABAVARD 25 (S) R Frost 7-11-4 — J Frost
5 PP-P CHOKAMILL 18P (S) Mrs J Mills 6-11-4 — Mr R Mills
6 U365 HASHAB 37 (B,F) P Wegmann 8-11-4 — T Eley
7 FPPU JAYSMITH 6 (F,G) J Poulton 10-11-4 — P Crowley (7)
8 -P65 JHAL FREZI 15 A Barrow 8-11-4 — S Burrough
9 043- MUTUAL MEMORIES 375 N Henderson 8-11-4 — Mr C Vigors (5)
10 U686 TANGO'S DELIGHT 15 D Elsworth 8-11-4 — R Greene
11 42P0 DANTE'S DELIGHT 128 P Jones 8-10-13 — W Marston
12 PPPP STRATTON FLYER 35 H Howe 6-10-13 — B Powell

10-11 Jurz, 4-1 Drumcullen, 7-1 Abavard, 10-1 Winspit, Mutual Memories, 16-1 Dante's Delight, 20-1 others.

6.30 MELODY MAN CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,239: 2m 1f) (16)

1 6131 TONYS GIFT 18 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-11-10 — D Bridgwater
2 6PP5 CASPIAN BELUGA 29 S Knight 8-11-5 — G Upton
3 4584 MAJBOOR YAFOOZ 18 (V) J Bosley 6-11-6 — M Bosley
4 34-P WILL JAMES 309 (B,F,G) C Drew 10-11-4 — Mr P Henley (5)
5 5-00 THE EXECUTOR 156 (D,F) J Joseph 6-11-3 — D Skyrme
6 -645 EL GRANDO 15 (D,S) K Cunningham-Brown 6-11-3 — W Marston
7 :0-00 MOYMET 16 (D,F) J King 10-11-3 — T Jenks
8 2150 DONTDRESSFORDINNER 37 (D,F,G) C Popham 8-11-1 — G Tormey (3)
9 0033 CHRIS'S GLEN 16 (V,D,F,G) J Bradley 7-11-0 — B Fenton (3)
10 0PP2 SEVERN GALE 18 (S) P Nicholls 6-11-0 — A P McCoy
11 1464 GUNMAKER 165F (G,S) B Llewellyn 7-11-0 — Mr J L Llewellyn
12 114F WEST ORIENT 20 (F,G) O O'Neill 11-11-0 — G Hogan (3)
13 10F4 HANDSON 13 (CD,S) B Millman 4-10-13 — D Salter (5)
14 4513 PERSISTENT GUNNER 11 (CD,S) R Hodges 6-10-10 — T Dascombe (3)
15 3P04 DUKE OF DREAMS 16 (CD,G) R Baker 6-10-7 — B Powell
16 -240 PRAIRIE GROVE 116 Miss H Knight 6-10-5 — G F Ryan (5)

4-1 Tonys Gift, 5-1 Dontdressfordinner, 8-1 Majboor Yafooz, Chris's Glen, 12-1 Severn Gale, Handson, 14-1 others.

7.00 SOMERSET NUFFIELD HOSPITAL CHASE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,810: 3m) (13)

1 134- CHANNELS GATE 333 (F,G,S) Miss V Williams 12-11-11 — R Davis
2 2U1F COURT MELODY 27 (B,BD,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-11 — A P McCoy
3 1F00 ACT OF PARLIAMENT 57 (B,F) K Bailey 8-11-11 — J A McCarthy
4 53SU MUTUAL TRUST 128 (D,F,S) P Hobbs 12-11-9 — G Tormey (3)
5 4FR0 GREEN ISLAND 16 (B,F,G,S) A Dunn 10-11-9 — Mr R White (7)
6 PFF5 GHIA GNEUIAGH 37 (D,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-9 — C Maude
7 P5F4 GIVUS A BUCK 8 (B,D,F,S) D Elsworth 13-11-6 — Mr P Henley (5)
8 P-13 MONKSANDER 20 (D,F,G) P Ritchens 10-10-7 — D Gallagher
9 /P-P JAY JAY'S VOYAGE 20 (CD,F) Mrs J Scrivens 13-10-0 — Mr G Pollock (5)
10 55P6 L'UOMO PIU 20 (B,CD,F,G,S) A Barrow 12-10-6 — B Powell
11 6-54 FATHER DOWLING 31 (V,G) G Balding 9-10-0 — B Fenton (3)
12 0P34 RATHER SHARP 11 (F,S) C Popham 10-10-0 — W Marston
13 2422 EVENING RAIN 11 (C,F,G,S) R Hodges 10-10-0 — T Dascombe (3)

7-2 Court Melody, 5-1 Ghia Gneuiagh, 6-1 Givus A Buck, Act Of Parliament, 8-1 Mutual Trust, Channels Gate, Monksander, 10-1 others.

7.30 ASPEN CATERING MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,213: 2m 1f) (14)

1 F2-2 GRUNDON 182 Mrs L Taylor 7-11-6 — J A McCarthy
2 JOHNS LITTLE TOM P Rodford 5-11-6 — S Burrough
3 30P4 MAHLER 35 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6 — T Jenks
4 OPERA FESTIVAL R Baker 6-11-6 — B Powell
5 RAVEN'S ROOST 303F H Manners 5-11-6 — Mr A Charles-Jones
6 2228 STORM RUN 50 (BF,G) P Nicholls 6-11-6 — A P McCoy
7 4 VALIANT 144 T Forster 5-11-6 — Mr P Henley (5)
8 2300 COME DANCE WITH ME 20 (BF) R Frost 6-11-1 — J Frost
9 U POWDER MONKEY 29 C Popham 6-11-1 — T Dascombe (3)
10 0 TAPESTRY ROSE 20 J Poulton 5-11-1 — P Crowley (7)
11 3 BLASTED 42 G Thorner 4-11-0 — Clare Thorner (7)
12 P LOGIE 37 (V) D Gandolfo 4-11-0 — D Fortt (3)
13 2230 SOLATIUM 45 M Pipe 4-11-0 — D Bridgwater
14 RUPERT'S PRINCESS 66F H Haynes 4-10-9 — G Upton

7-4 Solatium, 2-1 Storm Run, 4-1 Mahler, Valiant, 10-1 Blasted, 12-1 others.

8.00 TAUNTON RACECOURSE CONFERENCE CENTRE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £2,229: 2m 3f 110yd) (14)

1 1114 BLUE RAVEN 23 (F) P Hobbs 5-11-12 — J Creighton (7)
2 0011 GYSART 11 (B,F,G) M Pipe 7-11-10 (7ex) — A Farrant (5)
3 4P43 BLESSED OLIVER 26 (F) N T-Davies 6-11-6 — Miss A Plunkett (7)
4 0002 WYNBERG 28 (F) T Forster 5-11-6 — P Henley (5)
5 0F56 SIGMA RUN 15 (G) J Edwards 7-11-1 — C Vigors (5)
6 6556 CARDINAL RULE 57 J Edwards 7-11-0 — R Bevis (7)
7 4010 CASSIO'S BOY 27 (D,BF,S) R Eckley 5-10-10 — R Burton (7)
8 0300 RELATIVE CHANCE 16 J King 7-10-6 — J Rees (7)
9 0853 COLWALL 18 R Alsop 5-10-3 — P Scott (7)
10 340- SPIRIT LEVEL 365 J Payne 8-10-3 — R Payne (7)
11 P03P SHARP PENN 20 H Oliver 7-10-2 — M H Oliver (7)
12 0000 ALPHA LEATHER 9 L Grassick 5-10-1 — J Grassick (7)
13 0262 FORCING TWO 18 (B) N T-Davies 5-10-0 — J Goldstein (7)
14 5-UP ARCTICFLOW 18 (B) N Thomson 11-10-0 — S Davis (7)

3-1 Gysart, 4-1 Wynberg, 5-1 Blessed Oliver, 8-1 Cardinal Rule, 10-1 Blue Raven, Spirit Level, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hobbs, 22 winners from 92 runners, 23.9%; M Pipe, 45 from 189, 23.8%; J King, 5 from 22, 22.7%; Miss H Knight, 6 from 28, 21.4%; N Henderson, 6 from 35, 17.1%; K Bailey, 3 from 24, 12.5%.
JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 9 winners from 52 rides, 17.3%; G Tormey, 3 from 19, 15.8%; C Maude, 11 from 85, 12.9%; D Salter, 5 from 48, 10.4%; T Dascombe, 4 from 40, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

هذا من الاصل

Bruising setback for Bosra Sham

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

BOSRA SHAM has sustained a setback in her preparation for the 1,000 Guineas a week on Sunday. The odds-on favourite was sore on her near foreleg yesterday and has been placed on the easy list until the weekend.

Bosra Sham was found to have suffered a bruised foot. But her trainer, Henry Cecil, is optimistic the unbeaten filly will make the Newmarket line-up with her chance intact. "She should be back in exercise in a couple of days," Cecil said. "I am hopeful that the setback won't affect her participation in the big race."

Cecil will be anxious to canter the filly with the rest of the string tomorrow, although her winning reappearance at Newbury last week will have brought her close to peak fitness.

Despite the reversal, William Hill maintained Bosra Sham at 5-2 on for a classic weakened by the recent withdrawals of Blue Duster and A Votre Sante.

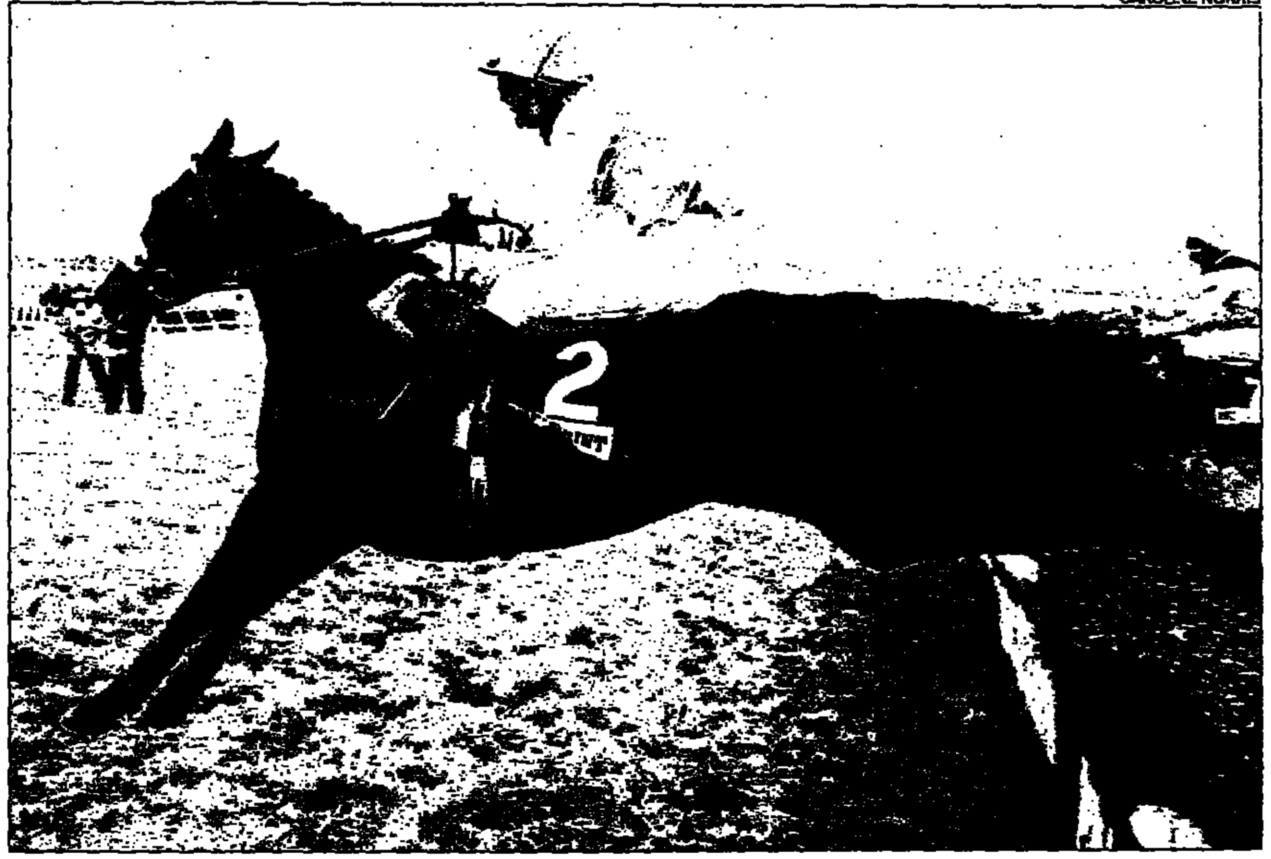
The Horserace Betting Levy Board yesterday announced a 20 per cent cut in its funding of evening and Sunday meetings from January 1.

These fixtures previously qualified for 100 per cent funding by the board, which is concerned at the lack of growth in off-course betting turnover. While profitable for racecourses, evening and Sunday fixtures have proved less attractive to off-course punters.

Nicholson and Pipe locked in enthralling private duel

Title bout goes the distance

FROM ALAN LEE AT PUNCHESTOWN



CAROLINE NORRIS

Ventana Canyon on his way to a narrow success in the Tripleprint Novices' Chase at Punchestown yesterday

THE two of them have circled each other through the winter, one occasionally landing an apparently decisive blow only for the other to respond with interest.

They were at it again yesterday, though this time on neutral territory in Ireland and, while the stakes here were high enough, the minds of Martin Pipe and David Nicholson wandered frequently to Sandown Park tomorrow and potentially the denouement of their private duel.

Eight months into the National Hunt season, Pipe leads Nicholson by a mere £7,945, roughly one per cent of his total winnings, at the head of the trainers' table. If either man wins the Whitbread Gold Cup, and upwards of £65,000, the title will effectively be settled. If not, the five weeks remaining before the June 1 recess will be a battle over scraps.

Publicly, both men play down the championship. But catch either of them off guard and the meaning of it might emerge. It is not just prestige, a label to attract new patrons, it is also strictly personal between two men at odds in all ways.

Pipe dominated the trainers' table for too long and a sport weary of his monopoly was grateful to Nicholson for taking the title from him in 1994. But Nicholson then won it again last year. Pipe's supremacy is diminished and he is fighting back.

Both men are inspired by their fathers but Nicholson's was a jockey turned trainer, while Pipe's is a bookmaker. The distinction reflects in their styles, Nicholson adhering to the traditions that Pipe scorns in his methods and his choice of horses. Socially, too, they have little in common. They are mutually civil but would probably not be on each other's dinner guest lists.

At large on the racecourse, Nicholson is a peacock, at ease with people who he will alternately bully and befriend with engaging facility, his heart permanently on his sleeve. Pipe is a woodpecker, busy, protective and suspicious.

Obsessively organised, Pipe will occasionally feel like an overloaded computer and, only then, submit to the need for a holiday. He was in Venice last weekend when Nicholson reopened the championship debate by training the first and third home in the Scottish Grand National at Ayr.

Pipe hurried home. "We worked 80 horses on Tuesday and will have plenty more winners yet," he promises. But those winners will be insufficient if Nicholson's Barton Bank wins at Sandown tomorrow. "It will be a different ball game them," the champion confirms. "If he doesn't win, then realistically I am struggling. I don't have enough horses to run on the firm ground."

There was much to divert on the last day here, including a second successive victory for Risk Of Thunder in the wondrously baffling La Touche Cup over four miles of banks and walls. But for those of us from across the sea, Pipe and Nicholson held court.

It was not their day. Pipe's Cyborgo was only fourth in the Stayers' Hurdle and their respective runners in the day's main event, the Murphys Champion Four-Year-Old Hurdle, were both unplaced, as Tony McCoy rode the second of his three winners on Shaunies Lady.

This was still symbolic. She is trained by Aidan O'Brien, for whom this was the first success of the meeting but the 146th of the season.

O'Brien is more than 100 winners clear of the field in Ireland, a remarkable champion, and yet, as Pipe found in Britain, there are many who resent so much success going to one man. They want to see him knocked off his perch. They are seeking a David Nicholson to do the job.

Darter can prove leniently treated on return to Flat

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: This race usually unearths a promising colt and **Censor** certainly merits that description. A brother to the high-class miler, Shavian, Censor won his maiden at Nottingham last term and has reportedly been working well. Gold Disc's reputation preceded him to Leicester, where he justified favouritism with ease. However, the second and third remain maidens. Regal Archive looks a bigger threat. From the same stable as Spectrum, the winner 12 months ago, Regal Archive justified strong support on his debut and will improve for the extra furlong here. Red Robbo may prefer fast ground; Royal Canaska appears best of the remainder.

3.05: Two against this competitive field are Almond Rock and **Star Manager**, with Paul Cole's representative given the vote on his triumph first time up last season. A winner that day from a rating of 78, Star Manager starts his campaign from a 3lb higher mark by virtue of being out of the handicap. Donna Viola capped a successful season when third in listed company and has claims if at her peak. Sotoboy is attractively weighted on his juvenile form, while a market move for Sejaal would merit a saver.

3.40: This intriguing contest can go the way of **Bishop Of Cashel**, who has conditions in his favour. With Mistle Cat and Inzar sure to keep the pace honest, Bishop Of Cashel will have the race run to suit him. He has nothing to fear from Nijo on their Doncaster running last term and should retrieve a one-length defeat by Soviet Line (at Ascot in September) on 6lb better terms.

First Island (holds Nwaamis) and Gabr are closely matched on recent Newmarket running, but the latter will have improved for the run. Myself has an outside chance but Decorated Hero can repay each-way support. Weighted out of several contests last season, he will strip fitter for a recent outing at Warwick and is open to further improvement.

4.10: Speed To Lead will be popular now that she steps up in trip but **Darter** is taken to translate his hurdles improvement to the Flat. Although Reg Akehurst's runner would prefer softer ground, he looks attractively handicapped at present. Hattaafeh and Toy Princess are closely matched on their recent clash at Folkestone but Barford Sovereign looks a bigger threat.

JULIAN MUSCAT

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ALMOND ROCK
(3.05 Sandown Park)
Next best: Mister Jolson
(4.45 Sandown Park)

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Magnolia
2.35 AL ABRAQ (nap)
3.05 Akil
3.40 Nwaamis
4.10 Darter
4.45 Gone Savage
5.20 Quota

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Show Off. 5.20 QUOTA (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing, J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,404: 5f 6yd) (8 runners)

101	(6)		ALIMERJAM (D Powell) J White 8-11	K Rutter	–
102	(7)		LOCH DIBIDALE (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 8-11	J Stack (3)	–
103	(5)		MAGNOLIA (C Wright) P Cole 8-11	M Hills	–
104	(2)		PRESKIDUL (Mrs W Grant) D Arbuthnot 8-11	S Whitworth	–
105	(8)	2	RED GARTER 30 (A MacGillivray) K McAuliffe 8-11	S Sanders	–
106	(3)	2	ROYAL EMBLEM 14 (Lambourn Valley Racing) A Foster 8-11	R Waterfield (7)	–
107	(4)		SABOTINI (Mrs E Roberts) B Hills 8-11	Pat Eddery	–
108	(1)		SHOW OFF (Mrs S Davis) W Jarvis 8-11	L Dettori	–

BETTING: 7-4 Magnolia, 7-2 Sabotini, 5-1 Red Garter, 11-2 Royal Emblem, 6-1 Show Off, 12-1 others.

1995: FLYING SQUAW 8-11 R Hughes (100-30 fav) M Channon 12 ran

2.35 TUDOR CONDITIONS STAKES
C4
(3-Y-O colts and geldings: £4,876: 1m 14yd) (7 runners)

201	(1)	01-	CENSOR 183 (D,F) (Lord Howard de Walden) H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	84
202	(5)	1-	GOLD DISC 199 (G) (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	80
203	(2)	15-	RED ROBBO 186 (F) (Lucayan Stud) H Cecil 9-0	Pat Eddery	88
204	(3)	1	REGAL ARCHIVE 18 (G) (Mrs B Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	90
205	(6)	3-1	ROYAL CANASKA 22 (D,G) (Mrs J Sutton) D Loder 9-0	L Dettori	88
206	(7)	16-	AL ABRAQ 213 (C,F) (Z Galadari) J Hills 8-10	R Hills	[illegible]
207	(4)		GOLD SPATS (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-7	R Cochrane	–

BETTING: 11-4 Red Robbo, 7-2 Regal Archive, 9-2 Censor, 5-1 Gold Disc, 6-1 Royal Canaska, 8-1 others

1995: SPECTRUM 9-4 J Reid (11-10 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

GOLD DISC beat Alambar 2½l in 12-runner maiden at Leicester (7f, good). RED ROBBO 9¼l last of 5 to Henry The Fifth in conditions race at Newbury (1m, good to soft). REGAL ARCHIVE beat State Of Caution 1¾l in 17-runner maiden at Kempton (7f, good). ROYAL CANASKA beat North Song head in 12-runner maiden at Leicester (1m, good). AL ABRAQ 6¼l 6th of 30 to Rio Duvida in restricted auction race at Newmarket (7f, good).
Selection: RED ROBBO

3.05 ATHLONE RATED HANDICAP
C4
(£8,074: 1m 14yd) (18 runners)

301	(1)	1/31150-	MOMENTS OF FORTUNE 309 (B,D,F,G) (A Ali) B Hanbury 4-9-7	J Stack (3)	90
302	(10)	335020-	DESERT GREEN 146 (D,F) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 7-9-7	Dane O'Neill (5)	88
303	(15)	11020-0	AKIL 6 (CD,F,S) (H Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 4-9-2	W Carson	90
304	(2)	414153-	DONNA VIOLA 203 (CD,F,S) (K Scott) C Wall 4-9-0	J Reid	90
305	(3)	11/40-	ABOVE THE CUT 242 (F) (Mrs F Harris) P Harris 4-9-0	G Hind	97
306	(8)	34600-0	PEARL VENTURE 34 (F) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 4-8-11	W Woods	87
307	(4)	100404-	IL TRASTEVERE 42J (D,S) (J Hanna) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-11	R Cochrane	90
308	(6)	031231-	ALMOND ROCK 223 (D,G,S) (CIT Racing Ltd) J Fanshawe 4-8-10	D Harrison	92
309	(16)	304130-	RON'S SECRET 181 (D,F,S) (R Davey) J Payne 4-8-10	L Dettori	98
310	(7)	0-30102	PENGAMON 18 (D,F,G) (Miss A Smallman) H Collingridge 4-8-9	J Quinn	[illegible]
311	(11)	251110-	BLAZE OF SONG 311 (D,G,S) (D Boocock) R Hannon 4-8-8	Pat Eddery	84
312	(13)	305006-	SOTOBOY 197 (F) (Mrs M Hollis) P Harris 4-8-7	R Hills	96
313	(18)	024605-	ELITE HOPE 175 (G) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 4-8-7	A Daly (5)	90
314	(14)	14-4425	CONFRONTER 68 (D,G,S) (Hatfield Ltd) S Dow 7-8-7	G Duffield	89
315	(9)	040063-	STAR MANAGER 153J (D,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 6-8-7	M Hills	86
316	(12)	03310-	SEJAAL 225 (D,F) (J Snow) R Akehurst 4-8-7	T Ashley (7)	81
317	(17)	111-023	EASY CHOICE 73 (D,G) (J Morton) P Mitchell 4-8-7	A Clark	88
318	(5)	410000-	SAIFAN 181 (D,F,G) (Mrs L Brook) D Morris 7-8-7	C Hodgson	–

Long handicap: Sotoboy 8-6, Elite Hope 8-6, Confronter 8-6, Star Manager 8-4, Sejaal 8-4, Easy Choice 8-1, Saifan 8-0

BETTING: 6-1 Almond Rock, 7-1 Donna Viola, 8-1 Blaze Of Song, Ron's Secret, 10-1 Pengamon, Sotoboy, Star Manager, 12-1 Above The Cut, 14-1 Akil, Confronter, Desert Green, 16-1 Il Trastevere, Sejaal, 20-1 others

1995: MR MARTINI 5-9-3 M Rimmer (10-1) C Brittain 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

DONNA VIOLA 3¼l 3rd of 10 to A La Carte in a listed race at Ascot (1m, soft) with PEARL VENTURE (3lb better off) 3¾l 7th. ALMOND ROCK beat Country Lover head in a 20-runner handicap at Newbury (1m, good to soft) with DESERT GREEN (7lb better off) 15l 11th and SAIFAN (2lb better off) 11l 14th. PENGAMON neck 2nd of 8 to Welton Arsenal in a conditions race at Warwick (7f, good). BLAZE OF SONG beat Knobbleeneeze neck in a 4-runner handicap at Chepstow (1m, good to soft) penultimate start. ELITE HOPE 3¾l 5th of 21 to Charlie Sillett in a handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to firm). STAR MANAGER head and 1½l 3rd of 13 to Secret Aly in a handicap at Leicester (1m, firm) with SAIFAN (1lb worse off) 11l 11th.
Selection: ALMOND ROCK

SPECIALISTS

SANDOWN PARK: Trainers: D Loder, 7 winners from 20 runners, 35.0%; J Gosden, 19 from 94, 20.2%; J Dunlop, 17 from 88, 19.3%; J Fanshawe, 12 from 64, 18.8%; W Haggas, 3 from 17, 17.6%. Jockeys: Pat Eddery, 48 winners from 230 rides, 20.9%; L Dettori, 35 from 200, 17.5%; W Ryan, 10 from 71, 14.1%; W Carson, 25 from 178, 14.0%; G Balding, 6 from 33, 18.2%; D Harrison, 12 from 102, 11.8%; G Hind, 3 from 28, 10.7%.

CARLISLE: Trainers: M Channon, 9 winners from 13 runners, 69.2%; J Dunlop, 5 from 10, 50.0%; Mrs J Ramsden, 11 from 38, 28.9%; Mrs M Reveley, 18 from 65, 24.6%; E Weymes, 4 from 18, 22.2%; E Alston, 6 from 31, 19.4%. Jockeys: P Robinson, 15 winners from 40 rides, 37.5%; G Parkin, 3 from 9, 33.3%; K Darley, 18 from 98, 18.4%; J Carroll, 13 from 74, 17.6%; J Weaver, 6 from 39, 15.4%.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
SANDOWN 101 201
CARLISLE 102 202
PERTH 103 203
LUDLOW 104 204
TAUNTON 105 205
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
MORNING LINE inc. TIMEFORM 368

3.40 SANDOWN MILE
C4
(Group II: £36,605: 1m 14yd) (12 runners)

401	(8)	34326-0	SOVIET LINE 10 (D,F,G) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 6-9-6	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
402	(10)	1/02214-	BISHOP OF CASHEL 216 (D,G,S) (Cheveley Park Stud) J Fanshawe 4-9-0	D Harrison	96
403	(7)	32202-3	DECORATED HERO 18 (D,F,G) (H Allen) J Gosden 4-9-0	L Dettori	91
404	(1)	2452-13	FIRST ISLAND 9 (D,F,G) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4-9-0	M Hills	94
405	(2)	16210-4	GABR 9 (D,F,G,S) (H Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 6-9-0	W Carson	93
406	(9)	021113-	INZAR 194 (F,G,S) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 4-9-0	R Cochrane	98
407	(11)	420464-	MISTLE CAT 166 (D,G,S) (P L Chu) S Woods 6-9-0	W Woods	98
408	(4)	1/42522-	NIJO 232 (C,D,G,S) (Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum) D Loder 5-9-0	R Hughes	93
409	(5)	1/350-3	NWAAMIS 36 (BF,S) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-9-0	R Hills	96
410	(6)	06026-0	AUTUMN AFFAIR 34 (S) (R Richards) C Brittain 4-8-11	W Ryan	87
411	(12)	003262-	LAP OF LUXURY 198 (CD,F,G) (I Hill-Wood) W Jarvis 7-8-11	B Thomson	91
412	(3)	100430-	MYSELF 194 (F,G) (Bloomsbury Stud) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-11	J Reid	96

BETTING: 9-2 Myself, 5-1 Soviet Line, 6-1 First Island, Gabr, 7-1 Bishop Of Cashel, Inzar, 8-1 Nwaamis, 10-1 Nijo, 12-1 Decorated Hero, 20-1 Lap Of Luxury, Mistle Cat, 50-1 Autumn Affair

1995: MISSED FLIGHT 5-9-4 G Duffield (7-4 fav) C Wall 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOVIET LINE best effort ½l 2nd of 8 to Harayir in the group II Challenge Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with MISTLE CAT (2lb better off) 2l 4th and AUTUMN AFFAIR (2lb better off) 5½l 6th. Previously 11l 3rd of 6 to Bahri in the group I Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot (1m, good) with BISHOP OF CASHEL (6lb better off) 1l 4th. BISHOP OF CASHEL beat NIJO ¾l in the 8-runner group III Kiveton Park Stakes at Doncaster (1m, good). FIRST ISLAND head and 1½l 3rd of 9 to Luso in the group III Earl of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm) with GABR ¾l 4th. Previously beat Wijara 1½l in a 7-runner listed race at Doncaster (1m, good) with NWAAMIS 2½l 3rd. INZAR short-neck and 1½l 3rd of 10 to Poplar Bluff in the group I Prix de la Foret at Longchamp (7f, good to firm). LAP OF LUXURY short-head 2nd of 8 to Restructure in a listed race at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm).
Selection: NWAAMIS

4.10 GUILDFORD HANDICAP
C4
(£4,241: 2m 78yd) (14 runners)

501	(8)	4111/	ERZADJAN 17J (G) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-0	A Culhane	–
502	(13)	4355-00	CYPRESS AVENUE 7 (B) (C Spencer-Phillips) R Hannon 4-9-5	R Perham	98
503	(14)	3/23-2	SPEED TO LEAD 9 (BF) (Buckram Oak Holdings) H Cecil 4-9-2	Pat Eddery	96
504	(10)	42-5061	TOY PRINCESS 10 (F,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 4-8-13 (4ex)	M Henry (5)	97
505	(3)	524524-	PARADISE NAVY 158 (G) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 7-8-12	R Hughes	92
506	(11)	034-110	LEAR DANCER 41 (B,D,BF,F,G) (Mrs R Johnson) P Mitchell 5-8-11	A Clark	88
507	(7)	3653-	DARTER 43J (A Spence) R Akehurst 4-8-7	S Sanders	96
508	(4)	0/62333-	BARFORD SOVEREIGN 31J (Barford Bloodstock) J Fanshawe 4-8-7	D Harrison	90
509	(12)	40462/	PREROGATIVE 114J (M Thole) R Simpson 6-8-5	S Drowne (3)	–
510	(9)	210/0/5	CALL MY GUEST 13 (S) (D Clee) R Peacock 6-8-4	W Carson	–
511	(6)	33000-2	HATTAAFEH 10 (G) (Mrs P Sheen) Miss B Sanders 5-7-10	G Bardwell	[illegible]
512	(5)	841621-	ROCKY FORUM 265 (D,G,S) (The Forum Ltd) G L Moore 4-7-10	J Quinn	90
513	(2)	05500-0	REAGANESQUE 14 (Mrs J Spielman) P Murphy 4-7-10	F Norton	98
514	(1)	3141-40	GENTLEMAN SID 35 (CD,F) (Miss J Collison) P Murphy 6-7-10	N Adams	87

Long handicap: Rocky Forum 7-9, Reaganesque 7-9, Gentleman Sid 7-8.

BETTING: 3-1 Speed To Lead, 6-1 Toy Princess, Erzadjan, 7-1 Darter, 8-1 Cypress Avenue, Barford Sovereign, 10-1 Paradise Navy, 12-1 others

1995: SMUGGLING 4-8-11 L Dettori (4-1 fav) R Akehurst 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPEED TO LEAD 2l 2nd of 15 to Progression in a handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm). TOY PRINCESS beat HATTAAFEH (4lb better off) ¾l in a 16-runner handicap at Folkestone (1m 7f 92yd, good to firm). PARADISE NAVY 2½l 2nd of 13 to Merit in a handicap at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start. DARTER 4½l 3rd of 9 to Lovely Lyca in a rated stakes at Leicester (1m 4f, firm). BARFORD SOVEREIGN 2½l and neck 3rd of 5 to Miss Pin Up in a handicap at Yarmouth (1m 3f 101yd, good to firm). ROCKY FORUM beat Bardolph 9l in a 6-runner handicap at Lingfield (2m, AW).
Selection: SPEED TO LEAD

4.45 SURREY RACING HANDICAP (£5,784: 5f 6yd) (18 runners)

601	(9)	R0020-1	SEIGNEURIAL 18 (D,G) (The PBT Group) G Harwood 4-10-0	A Clark	98
602	(12)	2540-00	LENNOX LEWIS 7 (D,F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 4-10-0	K Hopkins (7)	93
603	(14)	061000-	ROCK SYMPHONY 195 (D,F,G) W Haggas 6-9-11	Elizabeth Turner (7)	87
604	(15)	015400-	MASTER OF PASSION 202 (D,F,G,S) (M Kwee) J Eustace 7-9-9	M Tebbutt	89
605	(6)	130010-	TWICE AS SHARP 202 (D,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 4-9-8	G Hind	85
606	(1)	52240-	GLORIOUS ARAGON 216 (Lord Leverhulme) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-4	A Culhane	85
607	(3)	40433-0	TART AND A HALF 14 (D,F) (P Boggis) B Meehan 4-9-1	G Hannon (7)	88
608	(2)	01020-0	SALLY SLADE 18 (D,F,G,S) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 4-9-1	J Reid	83
609	(17)	5000-00	SIR JOEY 18 (D,F,S) (Mrs A Sinz) P Murphy 7-9-1	S Drowne (3)	93
610	(7)	000004-	ASHTINA 142 (D,F,G,S) (Ms S Joyner) B Pearce 11-8-10	Pat Eddery	98
611	(5)	41200-0	TINKER OSMASTON 18 (D,F,S) (J Luff) M Saunders 5-8-9	J F Egan	90
612	(18)	0400-04	MISTER JOLSON 18 (D,F,G,S) (B Froome) R Hodges 7-8-8	R Cochrane	[illegible]
613	(16)	461-1	GALINE 8 (D,F,G) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 3-8-4 (6ex)	S Sanders	92
614	(4)	244300	HALBERT 14 (V,D,F) (T Barker) P Burgoyne 7-8-3	D R McCabe (3)	89
615	(8)	42/0	MULTAN 18 (P Higson) G L Moore 4-7-12	W Carson	–
616	(13)	040060-	GONE SAVAGE 186 (CD,F,G,S) (Square Table) W Musson 8-7-12	F Norton	90
617	(11)	0015-00	FOLLOWMEGIRLS 18 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Martin) Mrs A King 7-7-10	J Quinn	85
618	(10)	213160	OUR SHADEE 4 (V,F,G) (K Ivory) K Ivory 6-7-10	N Adams	80

Long handicap: Followmegirls 7-2, Our Shadee 7-2

BETTING: 5-1 Seigneurial, 6-1 Galine, Twice As Sharp, 8-1 Master Of Passion, Mister Jolson, 10-1 Lennox Lewis, 12-1 others

1995: BRAVE EDGE 4-9-10 Pat Eddery (100-30 fav) R Hannon 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

SEIGNEURIAL dead-heated with Latching in 25-runner handicap at Kempton (6f, good) with MISTER JOLSON (8lb better off) 4½l 4th, SIR JOEY (11lb better off) 7½l 11th, TINKER OSMASTON (10lb better off) neck 12th and SALLY SLADE (9lb better off) 10l 18th. TWICE AS SHARP beat Here Comes A Star neck in handicap at Newcastle (5f, good) penultimate start. TART AND A HALF 2¾l 3rd to Bangles in handicap at Salisbury (5f, good to firm) penultimate start. SALLY SLADE best effort 1¼l 2nd to Mussalah in a handicap at Yarmouth (6f, good). TINKER OSMASTON best effort short-head 2nd of 20 to Bajan Rose in a handicap at Chepstow (6f, soft) with SIR JOEY (4lb better off) 9½l 10th and MISTER JOLSON (7lb better off) 6½l 14th. GALINE beat Wildwood Flower ½l in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to firm).
Selection: GALINE

5.20 APRIL MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,033: 1m 2f 7yd) (14 runners)

1	(4)	252-	ALESSANDRA 198 (D Deal) B Hills 8-11	R Hughes	[illegible]
2	(2)	3-	ANNECY 188 (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-11	W Ryan	89
3	(9)	03-	ANTIGUAN JANE 157 (P Locke) R Armstrong 8-11	R Price	78
4	(6)	43-	FLAME VALLEY 238 (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-11	R Hills	98
5	(3)	2-	LOTHLORIEN 192 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	90
6	(10)	50020-0	MIMOSA 22 (G Steinberg) S Dow 8-11	G Duffield	89
7	(12)	5-	NINOTCHKA 186 (Miss K Rausing) J Dunlop 8-11	W Carson	83
8	(8)	5-	REITERATE 224 (Miss B Swire) G Balding 8-11	S Drowne (3)	83
9	(14)	03-5	STATELY DANCER 18 (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-11	M Hills	85
10	(7)		AMBER RING (Pine Crest Racing) M Channon 8-7	Candy Morris	–
11	(13)		FOREST HEIGHTS (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 8-7	B Thomson	–
12	(1)		NAWAJI (T Al-Mazeedi) W Muir 8-7	R Cochrane	–
13	(5)		QUOTA (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-7	Pat Eddery	–
14	(11)		UNALLOYED (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-7	L Dettori	–

BETTING: 2-1 Quota, 7-2 Unalloyed, 6-1 Annecy, Lothlorien, 8-1 Alessandra, 10-1 Flame Valley, 12-1 others

1995: PITCROY 8-11 D Harrison (11-2) J Fanshawe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALESSANDRA 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Polar Eclipse in a maiden at Haydock (7f, good to soft). ANNECY 4¼l 3rd of 11 to Overruled in a maiden at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). FLAME VALLEY 4¼l 3rd of 5 to Sea Spray in a conditions race at Kempton (7f, good). LOTHLORIEN beat 2nd of 19 to Sto For Gold in a maiden at Chepstow (7f, soft). NINOTCHKA 4½l 5th of 14 to Jezyah in a maiden at Lingfield (7f, good). STATELY DANCER 12¾l 5th of 15 to Magnificent Style in a maiden at Kempton (1m 2f, good).
Selection: ANNECY (nap)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Beverley

Going: good to firm

2.10 (5f) 1, Major Quality (D Harrison, 13-8 fav); 2, Gormire (33-1); 3, Dark Deed (2-1). 12 ran. NR: Autoberry. 5l, 1½l. J Fanshawe. Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £24.40, £1.20. DF: £159.50. Trio: £226.80. CSF: £47.70.

2.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Montecristo (F Lynch, 2-5 fav); 2, Phantom Dancer (16-1); 3, Danico (11-2). 8 ran. NR: Cry Baby. ½l, 2l. R Guest. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £8.30. Trio: £6.00. CSF: £9.07.

3.10 (7f 100yd) 1, Coyote Bluff (J Reid, 13-2); 2, Sualtach (6-1); 3, Myboyle (5-1). State Of Caution 5-4 fav. 7 ran. Sh hd, 4l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £2.70. DF: £18.10. CSF: £41.95.

3.40 (1m 100yd) 1, Freequent (O Urbina, 7-4 fav); 2, Melt The Clouds (9-4); 3, Misky Bay (7-1). 12 ran. NR: Bashtheboards. ½l, 3l. L Cumani. Tote: £3.20; £1.20, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £3.50. Trio: £10.00. CSF: £6.59.

4.10 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Darling Clover (M Fenton, 12-1); 2, Eskimo Nel (11-4 fav); 3, Maradata (8-1); 4, Anchorena (14-1). 18 ran. NR: McGillycuddy Reeks. ½l, 1¾l. D Morley. Tote: £19.10; £3.70, £1.40, £1.70, £3.30. DF: £49.60. Trio: £144.60. CSF: £47.70. Tricast: £280.36.

4.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Faateq (W Carson, 11-4 fav); 2, Classic Colours (7-1); 3, Pine Needle (9-2). 10 ran. 2l, 1¼l. J Dunlop. Tote: £4.10; £1.50, £2.30, £2.10. DF: £30.50. Trio: £72.30. CSF: £23.23. Tricast: £82.37.

Jackpot: £8,586.50.

Placepot: £28.30. Quadpot: £19.30.

Perth

Going: soft with heavy patches

2.00 (3m ch) 1, Grouse-N-Heather (A Dobbin, 2-1 fav); 2, Over The Island (7-2); 3, Walls Court (4-1). 9 ran. 4l, 22l. P Monteith. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £4.40. Trio: £3.30. CSF: £8.19.

2.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Act Of Faith (P Niven, 13-8 fav); 2, Cragnabuoy (14-1); 3, Naughty Future (9-2). 15 ran. Nk, nk. N Gaselee. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £2.30, £1.80. DF: £13.80. Trio: £41.40. CSF: £23.25.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, Political Tower (A Dobbin, 2-1); 2, Wee River (13-8 fav); 3, Super Sandy (16-1). 7 ran. 19l, ¾l. R Nixon. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.40. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.46.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Eight Sharp (R Garritty, 9-2); 2, Principal Player (7-4 fav); 3, Drumdonna (25-1). 11 ran. 5l, 9l. M Hammond. Tote: £5.70; £2.10, £1.40, £2.50. DF: £8.60. Trio: £30.90. CSF: £12.58.

4.00 (3m ch) 1, Little Wenlock (Mrs V Jackson, 25-1); 2, Romany King (100-30); 3, Southern Minstrel (2-1). Howaryman 7-4 fav (f). 7 ran. 3l, 9l. Mrs D Gibson. Tote: £23.10; £5.00, £2.40. DF: £49.10. CSF: £98.58.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Urban Dancing (G Cahill, 11-2); 2, Johns The Boy (7-1); 3, Scarba (9-4 fav). 7 ran. 2l, nk. B Ellison. Tote: £6.40; £2.40, £2.60. DF: £13.70. CSF: £39.40.

Placepot: £90.20. Quadpot: £55.30.

Fontwell Park

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Raphael Bodine (R Davis, 7-4 fav); 2, Just Bruce (9-4); 3, Imperial Vintage (7-1). 12 ran. 3l, 2½l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £4.10. Trio: £4.30. CSF: £6.01.

2.50 (2m 2f ch) 1, Polden Pride (B Clifford, 15-2); 2, Mine's An Ace (10-1); 3, Ramstar (14-1). Black Church 3-1 fav. 13 ran. Nk, 1¾l. G Balding. Tote: £9.20; £3.10, £2.50, £4.10. DF: £64.90. Trio: £235.80. CSF: £74.95. Tricast: £948.87.

3.20 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Raqib (D Gallagher, 5-1); 2, Miss Dalan (7-1); 3, Prince Nasha (7-1). Fresh Choice 7-2 fav. 14 ran. Hd, 10l. P Ritchens. Tote: £3.80; £1.40, £4.10, £1.80. DF: £29.80. Trio: £104.60. CSF: £38.71. Tricast: £232.00.

3.50 (3m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, St Ville (B Powell, 10-1); 2, Menebuck (15-2); 3, Smuggler's Point (7-2). Punch's Hotel 3-1 fav. 7 ran. Hd, hd. R Buckler. Tote: £13.10; £3.70, £2.90. DF: £29.30. CSF: £70.45.

4.20 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, Childhay Chocolate (P Hide, 10-11 fav); 2, Foxgrove (5-2); 3, Call Me River (6-1). 6 ran. Hd, dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.90; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £3.00. CSF: £3.51.

4.50 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Tim (S Fox, 100-30 jt-fav); 2, Haunting Music (5-1); 3, Spring Grass (100-30 jt-fav). 12 ran. 1¾l, 6l. J Jenkins. Tote: £3.90; £1.70, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £12.50. Trio: £6.60. CSF: £18.38.

5.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Antonio Mariano (P Hide, 6-1); 2, Coleridge (7-2); 3, Pretoria Dancer (11-4). Whistling Buck 9-4 fav. 12 ran. 16l, 9l. J Gifford. Tote: £6.00; £2.20, £1.60, £1.30. DF: £12.50. Trio: £22.70. CSF: £26.86.

Placepot: £258.60. Quadpot: £19.00.

☐ Double Eclipse broke the Longchamp course record by 2.7 seconds yesterday when winning the group three Prix de Barbeville by 2½ lengths. The British challenger, heavily backed down to 21-10 joint-favourite, comfortably defeated Samiri, who snatched second place on the line from Helen Of Spain.

PERTH

THUNDERER

2.20 Executive Design. 2.55 Rallegio. 3.25 Fiveleigh Builds 4.00 Stash The Cash. 4.30 Betty's Boy. 5.00 Agistment. 5.30 Freno.

GOING: SOFT SIS

2.20 HILLTOWN PROPERTY COMPANY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,775: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	5411	EXECUTIVE DESIGN 39 (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-7	P Niven	98
2	4115	MARCHANT MING 29 (D,G,S) M Hammond 11-7	R Garritty	[illegible]
3	U0P0	FIRST BITE 67 T Dyer 10-12	A Dobbin	–
4	034	TRYPH 10 M Hammond 10-7	Mr C Bonner (3)	65

8-11 Executive Design, 6-4 Marchant Ming, 9-1 Tryph, 20-1 First Bite

2.55 CAMPBELL, BOATH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,996: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

1	-315	RALLEGIO 32 (BF,S) P Monteith 7-12-0	G Cahill	98
2	3124	JOMOVE 18 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-10	C McCormack (8)	98
3	3445	THE LAUGHING LORD 2 (CD,G,S) Miss L Russell 10-11-6	F Leahy	98
4	3PPP	EXPLORE MONDIAL 8 (V) T Dyer 5-11-6	A Linton (8)	91
5	-60P	PREMIER COUNTY 185 J Barclay 10-10-11	E Callaghan	80
6	PF4-	EASBY HOPES 390P (G) M Eames 10-10-10	A Watt (5)	–
7	4P40	COPPERHURST 9 (D,G) W Kemp 5-10-7	S Haworth (5)	[illegible]
8	F3P6	RIVERS END 41 J Edwards 7-10-4	B Harding	90
9	0030	WHITEGATESPRINCESS 113 B Ellison 5-10-0	N Horrocks (5)	93
10	-045	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 33F R McKellar 6-10-0	S Melrose (5)	86
11	2605	HILLTOWN BLUES 34 (G,G,S) T Dyer 7-10-0	R McGrath (3)	94
12	0540	SYLVAN CELEBRATION 16F J Goldie 5-10-0	D Parker	86
13	0006	DOLLY PRICES 11 W Smith 11-10-0	S Taylor (3)	89

7-2 Jomove, 9-2 Rallegio, Copperhurst, 7-1 The Laughing Lord, 8-1 Rivers End, 10-1 Hilltown Blues, 14-1 others

3.25 SUN LIFE OF CANADA HANDICAP CHASE
(£8,303: 3m) (6)

1	1341	FIVELEIGH BUILDS 20 (CD,,S) Miss L Russell 9-11-10	A Thornton	90
2	21UU	CEILIDH BOY 35 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-11-6	R Guest	[illegible]
3	64PP	FRONT LINE 55 (B,S) J J O'Neill 9-11-1	P Carberry	85
4	P311	NINFA 8 (B,D,F,G,S) G Richards 8-11-1 (4ex)	A Dobbin	94
5	U32P	BORN DEEP 3 (BF,S) B Rothwell 10-10-5	R Supple	98
6	5632	ASTINGS 41 (D,G,S) J Fitzgerald 8-10-5	M Dwyer	96

7-4 Fiveleigh Builds, 3-1 Astings, 7-2 Ninfa, 5-1 Ceilidh Boy, 10-1 Born Deep, 14-1 Front Line

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 24 winners from 52 runners, 46.2%; K Bailey, 11 from 26, 42.3%; L Lungo, 8 from 24, 33.3%; M Hammond, 21 from 79, 26.6%; J Goldie, 4 from 20, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 31 winners from 85 rides, 36.5%; F Leahy, 3 from 11, 27.3%; R Guest, 5 from 23, 21.7%; M Dwyer, 14 from 70, 20.0%; A Dobbin, 12 from 70, 17.1%; T Reed, 8 from 48, 16.7%.

4.00 GLOBAL MARINE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,942: 2m 110yd) (8)

1	2205	STASH THE CASH 2 (D,G,S) T Dyer 5-11-10	R McGrath (7)	92
2	1441	HIGHBANK 18 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-10	Mr M H Naughton (7)	[illegible]
3	6422	CURRENT SPEECH 2 (B,D,S) T Easterby 5-11-0	L Wyer	98
4	0504	MARCO MAGNIFICO 7 (D,F) T Dyer 6-10-5	A Linton (7)	95
5	4424	NIJWAY 20 M Barnes 6-10-4	P Waggott	97
6	P-11	DAPHNIS 272 (B,CD,F,G,S) W Kemp 7-10-2	B Storey	88
7	4400	PEGGY GORDON 25 (F) Mrs D Thomson 5-10-0	C McCormack (7)	93
8	3/00	BONZER 18 J Fitzgerald 7-10-0	F Leahy (3)	–

6-4 Highbank, 4-1 Current Speech, 6-1 Stash The Cash, Daphnis, 7-1 Nijway, 12-1 Marco Magnifico, Bonzer, 25-1 others.

4.30 ERNST & YOUNG NOVICES CHASE
(£5,784: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1	-124	BETTY'S BOY 44 (F,G,S) K Bailey 7-11-12	R Dunwoody	87
2	P244	FIFTYSEVENCHANNELS 18 (D,G,S) Mrs J Brown 7-11-12	A Dobbin	[illegible]
3	2112	ROCKET RUN 2 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 8-11-12	A Thornton	83
4	P232	EAST HOUSTON 2 (F,G) J J O'Neill 7-11-7	L Wyer	83
5	2223	WHITE DIAMOND 11 (V,BF,F,S) Miss L Russell 8-11-3	M Foster	74

8-11 Betty's Boy, 4-1 Rocket Run, 11-2 Fiftysevenchannels, 10-1 others

5.00 TOM DYER & CO STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £2,511: 2m 110yd) (10)

1	1-16	AGISTMENT 44 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 5-11-12	M Dwyer	–
2	62	ARDARROCH PRINCE 38 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2	P Niven	–
3	2-53	CALLERNISH DAN 144 J Edwards 6-11-2	P Carberry	–
4	0	CAUGHT AT LAST 6 J Haldane 5-11-2	B Storey	–
5	0	ELEMENT OF RISK 41 W Cunningham 6-11-2	N Smith	–
6	0	PHAR ECHO 38 L Lungo 5-11-2	M Foster	–
7		HOUSELOPE BROOK G White 5-10-11	Mr A Robson	–
8		GALLANT MAJOR M Barnes 4-10-10	P Waggott	–
9		GAME DRIVE K Morgan 4-10-10	A S Smith	–
10		HADAWAY LAD J Hellens 4-10-10	T Reed	–

5-4 Agistment, 3-1 Ardarroch Prince, 6-1 Callernish Dan, 7-1 Game Drive, 16-1 Phar Echo, Hadaway Lad, 20-1 others

5.30 TOM DYER & CO STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: £2,490. 2m 110yd) (9)

1		FRENO K Bailey 5-11-2	R Dunwoody	–
2		HYDRO M Hammond 5-11-2	R Garritty	–
3	00S	LIFEBUOY 11 J Turner 5-11-2	W Fry	–
4	0	SPECTRE 11 J Oliver 5-11-2	B Storey	–
5	0	GENERAL COMMENT 59 J Hellens 6-10-11	A Dobbin	–
6	00	HILDA'S PET 48 R McKellar 6-10-11	D Parker (3)	–
7	0	RUTH'S SURPRISE 34 T Dyer 6-10-11	A Linton (7)	–
8	4	NORTHERN FUSILIER 62 J Jefferson 4-10-10	M Dwyer	–
9	02	THE SHARROW LEGEND 51 D Eddy 4-10-10	B Harding	–

2-1 Freno, 4-1 The Sharrow Legend, 9-2 Hydro, Northern Fusilier, 10-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Carlisle: 3.50 Thorntoun Estate. 4.55 Heathyards Magic. 5.25 Strathtore Dream. Ludlow: 5.45 Prue's Problem. 7.45 Haye Buster. 8.15 Riverbank Rose. Perth: 4.30 White Diamond. Taunton: 5.30 Lawbuster. 6.30 Majboor Yafooz. 7.30 Logie. Sandown Park: 4.10 Cypress Avenue.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

2.10 Jib Jab. 2.45 Sagebrush Roller. 3.15 Night Wink. 3.50 Go-Go-Power-Ranger. 4.20 Migwar. 4.55 Heathyards Magic. 5.25 Foist.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH BEST SIS

2.10 BUZZARD MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,264: 5f) (9 runners)

1		BLAZING CASTLE W G M Turner 9-0	T Sprake 6
2	3	EXIT TO RIO 8 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon 7
3		GRATE TIMES E Weymes 9-0	J Fortune 3
4		HIGH SPIRITS T Easterby 9-0	M Birch 1
5	2	JIB JAB 6 D Nicholls 9-0	Alex Greaves 4
6	0	MAGIC BLUE 34 R Hollinshead 9-0	F Lynch (5) 5
7		MILL END BOY M W Easterby 9-0	G Parkin (5) 2
8		RECONDITE M Channon 9-0	K Darley 9
9		ZORBA C Thornton 9-0	D McKeown 8

5-4 Exit To Rio, 7-2 Recondite, 7-1 Jib Jab, 8-1 High Spirits, 10-1 Magic Blue, 12-1 Mill End Boy, 14-1 others.

2.45 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £2,283. 6f 206yd) (9)

1	0/4-	DE-VEERS CURRIE 310 R Fisher 4-9-2	K Fallon 4
2	00-3	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 18 (D,F,G,S) J Watts 8-9-1	N Connorton 2
3	0-20	PROUD IMAGE 13 (V,D,F,S) A Jarvis 4-8-13	J Tate 9
4	0556	GENESIS FOUR 39 (B,G) Mrs L Stubbs 6-8-7	J Fortune 5
5	05-0	KUMMEL KING 22 (CD,F,G) E Alston 8-8-5	S D Williams 8
6	0-50	FLAMBORO 11 (D,G,S) J Bethell 4-8-3	T Williams 1
7	50-0	TO PROVE A POINT 23 (B) J J O'Neill 4-8-3	D McKeown 7
8	0-00	SALLYOREALLY 18 W Storey 5-8-2	J Fanning 3
9	00-	THRUSHWOOD 352 N Chamberlain 4-8-1	N Carlisle 6

2-1 Sagebrush Roller, 9-4 Proud Image, 7-1 De-Veers Currie, Flamboro, 8-1 Kummel King, 10-1 To Prove A Point, 12-1 others

3.15 GOLDEN EAGLE HANDICAP
(£3,713: 7f 214yd) (11)

1	003-	SUE'S RETURN 197 (S) A Jarvis 4-10-0	J Tate 2
2	0-05	NIGHT WINK 18 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 4-9-11	Alex Greaves 9
3	80-0	PERCY BRAITHWAITE 18 (F) M Johnston 4-9-11	J Weaver 3
4	340-	KEMO SABO 68J (D,G,S) C Parker 4-9-9	F Lynch (5) 10
5	00-0	BOLD AMUSEMENT 69J (D,F,G) W Cunningham 6-9-7	D McKeown 8
6	006-	TERTIUM 197 (D,F) M Wane 4-9-6	J Fortune 11
7	01-0	BEST OF ALL 35 (D,F,S) J Berry 4-9-4	J Carroll 6
8	04-0	SEGALA 9 (D,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 5-9-1	K Darley 5
9	33-5	MOKUTI 22 G Wragg 4-9-1	P Robinson 4
10	48-2	IT'S ACADEMIC 29 (F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-0	K Fallon 7
11	00-0	SPANISH VERDICT 30 (CD,F,G,S) D Smith 9-8-12	C Teague (5) 1

9-4 It's Academic, 4-1 Night Wink, 5-1 Mokuti, 6-1 Percy Braithwaite, Sue's Return, 12-1 Best Of All, 14-1 others

3.50 MERLIN HANDICAP (£3,599. 1m 4f) (15)

1	00-1	MUHTADI 16 (G) J Dunlop 3-9-7	K Darley 10
2	2-25	SIX CLERKS 36 J Fitzgerald 3-8-11	K Fallon 12
3	2-12	JACKSON PARK 8 (D,S) T Easterby 3-8-10	M Birch 3
4	00-4	GO WITH THE WIND 30 M Bell 3-8-9	M Fenton 9
5	-131	SIEGE PERILOUS 18 (D,F,S) S Williams 3-8-9	J Tate 15
6	003-	STATE APPROVAL 181 A Jarvis 3-8-6	J Carroll 2
7	535-	DAIRA 179 J Bethell 3-8-4	P Robinson 8
8	3244	THORNTOUN ESTATE 23 (B,G) M Johnston 3-8-3	D McKeown 13
9	06-0	MARSAYAS 16 M Camacho 3-8-1	L Charnock 5
10	0-02	GO-GO-POWER-RANGER 11 B Ellison 3-8-1	N Kennedy 1
11	00-0	FORGIE 16 P Calver 7-13	N Varley (3) 11
12	164	PANAMA JIVE 11 (G) M Johnston 3-7-12	T Williams 7
13	0-00	GENERAL GLOW 18 N Bycroft 3-7-10	D Wright (3) 6
14	00-0	QUIET MOMENTS 18 P Murphy 7-10	N Carlisle 14
15	-536	ORDAINED 16 E Alston 3-7-10	P Fessey (5) 4

7-4 Muhtadi, 9-2 Jackson Park, 8-1 Six Clerks, Siege Perilous, 12-1 others

4.20 SPARROW HAWK MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,534: 1m 4f) (8)

1	2	ANNA SOLEIL 22 M Channon 9-0	J Fortune 4
2		LALLANS M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver 3
3	05-2	MIGWAR 18 L Cumani 9-0	K Darley 1
4	3	NORDIC HERO 13 A Jarvis 9-0	J Tate 6
5		RESPECTING Denys Smith 9-0	K Fallon 5
6		CLASSIC COLLEEN S Williams 8-9	A Mackay 8
7	0-	GILDORAN SOUND 179 T Easterby 8-9	M Birch 7
8	0	TROIKA 18 J Berry 8-9	J Carroll 2

4-5 Migwar, 11-2 Lallans, 13-2 Anna Soleil, 10-1 Nordic Hero, 12-1 others

4.55 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £2,283: 6f 206yd) (8)

1	30-0	TEE TEE TOO 7 (G) A Harrison 4-9-7	A Mackay 8
2	40-0	PALACEGATE TOUCH 16 (B,D,G,S) J Berry 6-9-1	J Carroll 4
3	2204	AT THE SAVOY 39 (B,G) Mrs L Stubbs 5-8-9	J Fortune 3
4	0-02	HEATHYARDS MAGIC 23 (B,G) M Dods 4-8-9	K Darley 2
5	46-0	THWAAB 25 F Watson 4-8-9	M Fenton 7
6	4-00	KASHANA 9 W Storey 4-8-6	J Fanning 6
7	/0	BRAMBLES WAY 30 (V) W Barker 7-8-3	L Charnock 5
8	/00	OHNONOTAGAIN 8 B Murray 4-8-0	T Williams 1

9-4 Heathyards Magic, 4-1 Palacegate Touch, Tee Tee Too, Kashana, 8-1 others.

5.25 PEREGRINE HANDICAP (£2,871: 6f) (17)

1	000-	SUPERPRIDE 174 (D,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-0	K Darley 6
2	-303	BARATO 4 (V,D,BF,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-0	K Fallon 15
3	-334	PETRACO 3 (D,BF,F,G,S) N Smith 8-9-12	S D Williams 14
4	5413	JIGSAW BOY 58 (D,BF,F,G,S) P Murphy 7-9-9	M Fenton 16
5	0-00	RICH GLOW 16 (F) N Bycroft 5-9-8	P Robinson 4
6	50-0	DENSBEN 15 (C,D,F,G,S) Denys Smith 12-9-0	J Weaver 7
7	-030	NORTHERN SPARK 11 (C,D,F) Miss L Perratt 8-8-11	J Carroll 8
8	-111	FOIST 17 (D,G) M W Easterby 4-8-8	G Parkin (5) 13
9	0-44	SONDERISE 22 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 7-8-7	J Fortune 10
10	300-	HENRY THE HAWK 238 (S) M Dods 5-8-6	C Teague (5) 11
11	00-0	MU-ARRIK 15 (V,D,F,G) G Oldroyd 8-8-5	D McKeown 12
12	06-0	RINUS MANOR 15 E Alston 5-8-3	J Fanning 17
13	3105	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 17 (D,G) R Hollinshead 5-8-3	F Lynch (5) 5
14	460-	RAGAZZO 183J (B,G) J Wainwright 6-7-10	L Charnock 2
15	0003	LANGTONIAN 18 (B,D,G) J Eyre 7-7-10	D Wright (3) 9
16	0-00	STRATHTORE DREAM 11 (V) Ms L Perratt 5-7-10	P Fessey (5) 3
17	3-06	BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 71 D Chapman 4-7-10	N Kennedy 1

5-2 Barato, 9-2 Foist, 7-1 Petraco, 8-1 Superpride, Jigsaw Boy, 10-1 others

County prospects for the summer of '96

DERBYSHIRE

THERE is something about Dean Jones that quickens the pulse and he is an inspired signing. Jones brings with him Les Stillman, the coach of Victoria, and the prospect is exciting all at the club. It needs to. Derbyshire have spent three years in the bottom four of the championship, a mockery of their ability.

They have potentially the best pace attack in the country, though Malcolm, Cork and DeFreitas have seldom fired together, even on their seam-friendly pitches. Jones must see that they do, though he should be mindful that some of Cork's energies will need to be preserved for the national interest.

Jones will not find such a wealth of spin bowlers, which is why Derbyshire cannot hope to win the championship. But if the new captain and the old, Kim Barnett, bat as they can, and Chris Adams fulfils his promise, a one-day trophy is feasible.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 14th. AXA Equity & Law League: 8th. NatWest Trophy: quarter-finals. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: D M Jones (captain, overseas), C J Adams, P Aldred, K J Barnett, S J Base, M E Cassar, D G Cork, K J Dean, P A J DeFreitas, F A Griffith, S P Griffiths, A J Harris, K M Krikken, S J Lacey, M R May, D E Malcolm, T J G O'Gorman, J E Owen, A S Rollins, B Spendlove, T A Tweats, M J Vandrau, A E Warner, C M Wells.

Dean Jones, centre, brought in from Australia to revive Derbyshire's fortunes

PRIZE-MONEY

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Winners: £95,000. Runners-up: £30,000. Third: £15,000. Fourth: £10,000. Fifth: £9,000.

NATWEST TROPHY: Winners: £42,500. Runners-up: £21,000. Semi-finalists: £10,500. Quarter-finalists: £5,250.

AXA EQUITY & LAW LEAGUE: Winners: £40,000. Runners-up: £20,000. Third: £10,000. Fourth: £5,000.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Winners: £40,000. Runners-up: £20,000. Semi-finalists: £10,000. Quarter-finalists: £5,000.

BETTING

	BAC	NWT	AXA	BH
Derbyshire	20-1	16-1	25-1	28-1
Durham	200-1	40-1	66-1	80-1
Essex	16-1	9-1	12-1	14-1
Glamorgan	66-1	25-1	25-1	33-1
Gloucestershire	16-1	20-1	33-1	20-1
Hampshire	66-1	28-1	50-1	20-1
Kent	16-1	10-1	9-2	8-1
Lancashire	7-1	6-1	5-1	7-1
Leicestershire	20-1	12-1	25-1	33-1
Middlesex	5-1	8-1	12-1	7-1
N'thamptonshire	8-1	14-1	20-1	10-1
Nottinghamshire	33-1	33-1	33-1	25-1
Somerset	20-1	18-1	33-1	25-1
Surrey	20-1	12-1	9-1	13-2
Sussex	66-1	20-1	20-1	16-1
Warwickshire	2-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Worcestershire	14-1	9-1	11-2	10-1
Yorkshire	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1

Assessments by Alan Lee

SURREY

JUST what is going on at the Oval? During a chaotic winter, Surrey have changed their chairman, chief executive and coaching staff, lost the overseas player who might have transformed them and made a huge loss. Alec Stewart remains as captain, marooned on the burning deck with no realistic chance of a championship challenge.

Brian McMillan's withdrawal from his contract was a grievous blow. Brendon Julian is the replacement, and not a bad one, but the recovery of new signing Chris Lewis from a hip injury remains in doubt. The team Stewart thought he had has simply not materialised.

Dave Gilbert, from Queensland, who takes over as coach, will need all his talents to rid Surrey of the fatalism that has blighted several seasons past, but they have enough talent to win a one-day event.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 12th. AXA Equity & Law League: 9th. NatWest Trophy: second round. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: A J Stewart (captain), E Benjamin, D J Bicknell, M P Bicknell, A D Brown, M A Butcher, J M de la Pena, A J Hollioake, B C Hollioake, B P Julian (overseas), S G Kenlock, G J Kennis, G J Kersey, J A Knott, C C Lewis, R W Nowell, R M Pearson, A C S Pigott, J D Ratcliffe, N F Sargeant, N Shahid, A W Smith, G P Thorpe, A J Tudor, D M Ward.

DURHAM

IT IS impossible to be optimistic for Durham's season. I made the mistake last year, on the basis of a new home and a new captain, and squirmed as they finished seventeenth in the championship and sixteenth in the Sunday league. In four years as a first-class side they have not escaped from the bottom three of the championship and they are unlikely to start now, even with Norman Gifford as coach.

Mike Roseberry, their captain, can hardly have another such barren year with the bat and there is still scope for advancement in Jimmy Daley and Stewart Hutton. But Sherwin Campbell, an exotic shotmaker, is an odd overseas signing for the quirky new pitches at Chester-le-Street. The bowling burden will again fall on Simon Brown. In another team, this talented left-armer would probably have played for England; with Durham, he is being dragged down.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 17th. AXA Equity & Law League: 16th. NatWest Trophy: 2nd round. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: M A Roseberry (captain), P Bainbridge, M M Betts, S D Birbeck, D A Blenkiron, J Boiling, S J E Brown, C L Campbell, S L Campbell (overseas), P D Collingwood, D M Cox, J A Daley, S Hutton, N Killeen, D G C Ligertwood, J I Longley, S Lugsdon, J E Morris, A Pratt, C W Scott, J P Searle, A Walker, R M S Weston, J Wood.

HAMPSHIRE

JOHN STEPHENSON left Essex to acquire a county captaincy but he has inherited the job at Hampshire at an unenviable time. The team is the weakest for two decades and the club has been dealt a stinging blow by the rejection of its application for National Lottery funds for a new ground in which it has invested heavily.

It is one of the stars of the team of the mid-1980s who will give Stephenson reasons for optimism. Malcolm Marshall is to have senior duties as coach, alongside Tim Tremlett, and his influence, already seen in the second XI, who won last year's championship, will be fascinating.

Liam Botham now has a full contract but will have to wait his turn behind Jason Laney and the unorthodox Paul Whitaker. Jim Bovill's full recovery from a back injury is crucial to an attack in which Winston Benjamin returns as overseas player.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 13th. AXA Equity & Law League: 18th. NatWest Trophy: first round. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage

1996 STAFF: J P Stephenson (captain), A N Aymes, W K M Benjamin (overseas), L J Botham, J N B Bovill, C A Connor, R R Dibden, S R G Francis, M Garaway, K D James, M Keech, W S Kendall, J S Laney, R J Maru, S M Milburn, R S M Morris, S J Renshaw, L Savident, R A Smith, V P Terry, D M Thomas, M J Thursfield, G R Treagus, S D Udal, P R Whitaker, G W White.

MIDDLESEX

MIDDLESEX won nothing last year, yet they contributed fully to a marvellous scrap for the championship and are likely contenders once more. The caveat is the absence of John Emburey, which will test Philip Tufnell's temperament for taking on the greater responsibility of leading the spin attack.

The seam bowling looks strong but is reliant on fitness. Fraser has had a groin operation since England's winter tour and Johnson, who missed the trip with a back injury, now has a shoulder strain. Nash is with New Zealand on tour in the Caribbean.

As ever, though, Middlesex's prime asset will be self-belief, engendered by Gatting's captaincy and sustained by the strong characters within the side. Gatting, pushing 39, will make his usual stack of runs and watch out for the emergence of the teenage batsman, Owais Shah.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 2nd. AXA Equity & Law League: 17th. NatWest Trophy: quarter-finals. Benson and Hedges Cup: quarter-finals.

1996 STAFF: M W Gatting (captain), I N Blanchett, K R Brown, J D Carr, K P Dutch, M R Evans, R A Fay, M A Feltham, D Follett, A R C Fraser, D J Goodchild, J C Harrison, J P Hewitt, R L Johnson, A A Khan, S P Moffat, D C Nash, D J Nash, J C Pooley, M R Ramprakash, U B A Rashid, O A Shah, P C R Tufnell, P N Weekes, P N Wellings.

SUSSEX

ONE Barbadian, Desmond Haynes, takes over as coach, and another, Vasbert Drakes, as overseas player. But all else is unchanged at Hove, right down to the deckchaired lawns at the top of the ground that have gratifyingly been spared redevelopment. Sadly, the unchanging scene may extend to an empty trophy case.

For two years, Sussex's batting has been woeful. Alan Wells is exempt and in his benefit year he will at least have better support. Martin Speight is back, after a year of illness, and the most inventive batsman in the country will again enliven every Sussex innings. More is needed, though, from Greenfield, Lenham and Hall.

The bowling is as well balanced as any attack and if Giddins, Lewry and the off spinner, Phillips, continue to advance, they will bowl teams out. Salisbury is the key. A good season from him could carry Sussex into the top five.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 15th. AXA Equity & Law League: 10th. NatWest Trophy: second round. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: A P Wells (captain), C W J Athey, J J Bates, V C Drakes (overseas), A D Edwards, E S H Giddins, K Greenfield, J W Hall, S Humphries, P W Jarvis, R J Kirtley, D R Law, N J Lenham, J D Lewry, R S C Martin-Jenkins, P Moores, K Newell, M Newell, N C Phillips, I D K Salisbury, M P Speight.

ESSEX

IT HAS been a bleak time by Essex standards — they have won nothing for three seasons — but they may re-emerge this year, both as the greatest threat to a hat-trick of championships for Warwickshire and as one-day trophy material. Graham Gooch deserves some reward in his 24th, and probably last, season.

Gooch is one feature of an attractive batting line-up in which Nasser Hussain need only maintain his resurgence to resume his Test career. Stuart Law is a fine deputy for Mark Waugh and there should be better to come from the batting wicketkeeper, Robert Rollins, 22, and opener Darren Robinson, 23.

Paul Grayson, from Yorkshire, is another shrewd signing by a club renowned for them and he will provide spin support for Childs and Such. If Ilott stays fit and Irani develops, Essex will surely win something.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 5th. AXA Equity & Law League: 5th. NatWest Trophy: 2nd round Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage

1996 STAFF: P J Prichard (captain), S J W Andrew, D W Ayers, J H Childs, D M Cousins, A P Cowan, N A Derbyshire, G J A Goodwin, G A Gooch, A P Grayson, J O Grove, A J E Hibbert, T P Hodgson, N Hussain, B J Hyam, M C Ilott, R C Irani, S G Law (overseas), J J B Lewis, S D Peters, J C Powell, D D J Robinson, R J Rollins, P M Such, N F Williams

KENT

THE dichotomy of the English game was perfectly illustrated by Kent last season — bottom in the championship yet top of the Sunday league. The members, who prefer ties to T-shirts, were not happy and one even tried to drum up support for an extraordinary general meeting.

The one significant change in the squad is the return of Carl Hooper for Aravinda de Silva. This might produce a few more wickets, though probably no more runs, and Kent need some of the young brigade, particularly Walker and Fulton among the batsmen and Spencer, as a bowler, to make their mark. Dean Headley has already emerged and could soon be a Test bowler.

That honour will not come again to either McCague or Igglesden but Kent could do with them both remaining fit. Min Patel regressed last year, but could come again.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 18th. AXA Equity & Law League: champions. NatWest Trophy: second round Benson and Hedges Cup: runners-up

1996 STAFF: M R Benson (captain), G R Cowdrey, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, J A Ford, D P Fulton, D W Headley, C L Hooper (overseas), W J House, A P Igglesden, N J Llong, M J McCague, S A Marsh, M M Patel, B J Phillips, N W Preston, E T Smith, D J Spencer, E J Stanford, N R Taylor, J B D Thompson, M J Walker, C D Walsh, T R Ward, S C Willis, T N Wren.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

THEY could justifiably feel sorry for themselves after finishing without reward for last year's gallantry, but a new captain and coach should help to clear the hangover. Allan Lamb has gone and Rob Bailey takes over the side and, for the most part, his coach, John Emburey, will be playing under him.

Emburey's registration as a contested player reflected concern over the loss of Lamb's seniority and Anil Kumble's wickets. Emburey says he does not intend to play full-time, but form may dictate otherwise. The overseas job reverts to Curtly Ambrose, who will remain a handful as long as his enthusiasm lasts.

The batting is extended by the all-rounders, Capel and Curran, and strengthened by the potential of Russell Warren, Mal Loye and David Sales. They ought to win something — but will it, at long last, be the championship?

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 3rd. AXA Equity & Law League: 13th. NatWest Trophy: runners-up. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: R J Bailey (captain), C E L Ambrose (overseas), T M B Bailey, S A J Boswell, J F Brown, D J Capel, K M Curran, J E Emburey, A Fordham, J G Hughes, K J Innes, M B Loye, N A Mallender, R R Montgomerie, A L Penberthy, D Ripley, A R Roberts, D J Roberts, D J Sales, J N Snape, M V Steele, A J Swann, J P Taylor, T C Walton, R J Warren.

WARWICKSHIRE

IT IS a long time since a team began a season quoted at only 2-1 for the championship, but Warwickshire deserve it. Middlesex and Northamptonshire could feel they had done enough to win last year's title, but Warwickshire were relentless in their defence. Four-day cricket produces more results and the best teams usually win: that suits Warwickshire well.

Enthusiasm for a third successive title — not achieved since Yorkshire in 1968 — must be moderated. They have lost Allan Donald, though his role as bowling coach will benefit his replacement, Shaun Pollock, and they have lost Roger Twose to New Zealand. Better news is that Andy Moles is fit again.

This may be Dermot Reeve's final year as captain and he is likely to go out with at least one trophy, for Warwickshire have made themselves the best at both one-day and four-day cricket.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: champions. AXA Equity & Law League: 2nd. NatWest Trophy: winners. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: D A Reeve (captain), D A Altree, M A V Bell, D R Brown, M Burns, M Edmond, T Frost, A F Giles, W G Khan, N V Knight, S McDonald, A J Moles, T A Munton, D P Ostler, T L Penney, K J Piper, S M Pollock (overseas), M J Powell, A Singh, G C Small, N M K Smith, P A Smith, S Vestergaard, M A Wagh, G Welch.

GLAMORGAN

THE heady summer of 1993, when Glamorgan won the Sunday league and finished third in the championship, is now a distant and curious memory at Cardiff, where there is a sense of punctured expectation. Hugh Morris, a casualty of the mood, has handed on the captaincy to Matthew Maynard, whose first assignment will be to restore respectability in the four-day game.

Four batsmen averaged above 40 last season but Dale, Hemp and Croft, England A players who have not trained on, were disappointing. Croft took 56 championship wickets but bowled a lot of overs for them. He is on the brink of being a fine cricketer but needs to take that final step.

Ottis Gibson's return improves seam support for Steve Watkin but Glamorgan's greatest wish must be for the maturing of the strapping Darren Thomas, an exciting prospect.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 16th. AXA Equity & Law League: 6th. NatWest Trophy: semi-finals. Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: M P Maynard (captain), S R Barwick, G P Butcher, D A Cosker, P A Cottey, R D B Croft, A Dale, A J Dalton, A P Davies, G J M Edwards, A W Evans, R E Evans, O D Gibson (overseas), I Gompertz, D L Hemp, S P James, P S Jones, N M Kendrick, W Law, C P Metson, B M Morgan, H Morris, O T Parkin, A D Shaw, S D Thomas, S L Watkin, J R A Williams.

LANCASHIRE

DISAPPOINTMENT at winning only one trophy said much for the lofty expectations at Old Trafford last year but the sights may be lowered now. Lancashire have lost an inspirational overseas player in Wasim Akram and an inventive coach in David Lloyd. Both may be back but for this summer their absence will combine with a potentially draining level of Test calls.

It is 46 years since Lancashire so much as shared the title, far too long for a big and ambitious club. Sometimes they have suffered from confused priorities and a lack of belief in their ability in the longer game. This year, it will be realism that dictates the one-day arena as their best chance of silverware. Steve Elworthy, a South African, deputises for Wasim and Gary Keedy needs to advance his left-arm spin if they are to win more often on their own pitches.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 4th. AXA Equity & Law League: 4th. NatWest Trophy: quarter-finals. Benson and Hedges Cup: winners.

1996 STAFF: M Watkinson (captain), M A Atherton, I D Austin, C Brown, G Chapple, M Chilton, J P Crawley, S Elworthy (overseas), N H Fairbrother, A Flintoff, J E R Gallian, R J Green, M E Harvey, J J Haynes, W K Hegg, G Keedy, G D Lloyd, P C McKeown, L J Marland, P J Martin, P M Ridgway, D J Shadford, N J Speak, D J Thompson, S P Titchard, N T Wood, G Yates.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NO GREAT cause for optimism here. Nottinghamshire contrived to lose their last six championship games last summer, and although injuries could partly be blamed, they are a team in decline. Chris Tolley and Ashley Metcalfe, the close-season signings, are unlikely to alter that.

Paul Johnson is the new captain, after eight years of Tim Robinson's melancholy body language and conservative methods, but Robinson will continue as the pivot of the batting.

Much rests upon Chris Cairns, when he arrives back from New Zealand's tour of the Caribbean. He will again be the strike bowler, without much support, and his middle-order hitting will be crucial, especially in one-day cricket. In the championship, where a top-half placing is the best they can expect, Nottinghamshire will look to their left-arm spinners, Hindson and Afzaal.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 11th. AXA Equity & Law League: 11th. NatWest Trophy: second round. Benson and Hedges Cup: quarter-finals.

1996 STAFF: P Johnson (captain), J A Afford, U Afzaal, G F Archer, R T Bates, M N Bowen, M Broadhurst, C L Cairns (overseas), R J Chapman, M P Dowman, K P Evans, N A Gie, J P Hart, J E Hindson, A A Metcalfe, G W Mike, M Newell, W M Noon, D B Pennett, R A Pick, P R Pollard, I Riches, R T Robinson, C M Tolley, L N P Walker, G E Welton, J R Wileman.

WORCESTERSHIRE

TOM MOODY had to step into the breach as Western Australia's captain during the winter, which was not his ideal once he had pledged his future to the same job at New Road. He is a capable man, though, and the right one to reinvigorate Worcestershire's cricket after two poor years in the championship.

The problem is that their seam attack has grown old. Radford has now retired, so the remaining stalwarts, Newport and Lampitt, will look for support from James Brinkley and Paul Thomas. Alamgir Sheriyar, from Leicestershire, can expect plenty of bowling.

Moody, Hick and Curtis will, as usual, dominate the batting, but if Worcestershire are to make consistently high scores in four-day cricket, Weston, Leatherdale and Haynes must improve their averages. The club could add to its four one-day trophies in nine years, but remain mid-table in the championship.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 10th. AXA Equity & Law League: 3rd. NatWest Trophy: second round. Benson and Hedges Cup: semi-finals.

1996 STAFF: T M Moody (captain, overseas), J E Brinkley, M J Church, T S Curtis, I Dawood, M Diwan, S W K Ellis, C P Harrison, G R Haynes, G A Hick, R K Illingworth, S R Lampitt, D A Leatherdale, P J Newport, B E A Preece, J T Ralph, M Rawnsley, S J Rhodes, A Sheriyar, V S Solanki, K R Spiring, P A Thomas, W P C Weston.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SCORNING the dismissive forecasts of all and sundry, Gloucestershire were the most improved team of last season. Can they keep it up? The bookmakers are taking no chances with them this year (16-1 for the championship rather than 50-1) and Courtney Walsh is back as captain and strike bowler.

The squad, minus Walsh and Jack Russell, went to a training camp in Zimbabwe earlier this month, when the apparently restored fitness of Mike Smith was cheering. The left-armer could yet play Test cricket and will certainly form a potent spearhead with Walsh, in an attack augmented by the spin of Richard Davis, signed from Warwickshire.

Rob Cunliffe, with the bat, and Jon Lewis, with the ball, are young players to watch but undoubtedly the most exciting will be the controversial Andrew Symonds, who is apparently ready to accept that he has a better chance of playing for England than Australia.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 6th. AXA Equity & Law League: 15th. NatWest Trophy: quarter-finals. Benson and Hedges Cup: quarter-finals

1996 STAFF: C A Walsh (captain, overseas), M W Alleyne, M C J Ball, D J P Boden, M J Cawdron, K E Cooper, R J Cunliffe, R P Davis, R I Dawson, T H C Hancock, D R Hewson, J Lewis, M A Lynch, V J Pike, R C Russell, K P Sheeraz, A M Smith, A Symonds, J G Whitby-Coles, R C J Williams, M G N Windows, A J Wright.

LEICESTERSHIRE

THEY have become unfashionable since winning trophies under Raymond Illingworth and friends under David Gower but Leicestershire are never to be underestimated. James Whitaker will bring freshness and ambition to the captaincy he has coveted for years and they should once more finish in the top half of the championship table.

To fare better than that will require the sustained form and fitness of Millns and Mullally, a spiky opening attack, and a substantial all-round input from the new vice-captain, Phil Simmons. In 1994, Simmons made 261 in the opening game but never again reached 100. More is required now.

Nigel Briers, the former captain, misses the opening weeks through injury so there is a chance for Darren Maddy to establish himself. This is also a big year for Ben Smith, who has begun with a century at the Parks.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 7th. AXA Equity & Law League: 7th. NatWest Trophy: second round Benson and Hedges Cup: group stage.

1996 STAFF: J J Whitaker (captain), S Bartle, N E Briers, M T Brimson, V P Clarke, C D Crowe, J M Dakin, A Habib, G I Macmillan, D L Maddy, T J Mason, D J Millns, A D Mullally, P A Nixon, J Ormond, G J Parsons, A R K Pierson, C C Remy, P E Robinson, P V Simmons (overseas), B F Smith, D I Stevens, I J Sutcliffe, V J Wells, P Whitticase, D Williamson.

SOMERSET

SOMERSET'S prospects last year seemed rosy because of their exciting young opening batsmen and the potency of their new-ball bowlers. In the event, the batsmen, Lathwell and Trescothick, both played badly enough to be dropped and the fast bowlers, Caddick and van Troost, were fit for only six games each. The outcome was a mediocrity that will continue unless the four players produce more.

Caddick says he is now finally over his shin problems; if so, he could still be an England bowler. Confidence was the problem for Lathwell and Trescothick and that has been diligently repaired by the coach, Bob Cottam. The loss of Mushtaq Ahmed, who took 92 championship wickets last year, may turn Somerset's sights towards one-day events, in which the Australian, Shane Lee, is a potential match-winner. He bowls aggressively and hits the ball over tall buildings.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 9th. AXA Equity & Law League: 13th. NatWest Trophy: first round. Benson and Hedges Cup: semi-finals.

1996 STAFF: A N Hayhurst (captain), J D Batty, I E Bishop, P D Bowler, A R Caddick, M Dimond, S C Ecclestone, J C Hallett, R J Harden, P C L Holloway, J I D Kerr, M N Lathwell, S Lee (overseas), K A Parsons, G D Rose, K J Shine, M E Trescothick, H R J Trump, R J Turner, A P van Troost.

YORKSHIRE

THERE is no shortage of young talent at Headingley and, if it is properly harnessed, David Byas, who takes on the captaincy from Martyn Moxon, could win something in his first year, which Moxon failed to do in six.

The fitness of the seam bowlers is paramount. Gough played only nine championship games last year and Chris Silverwood seven. Peter Hartley, now 36, requires better support this time, though Yorkshire can also filter in Wharf and Hutchison, both capable youngsters.

Michael Bevan's input has been recognised with the vice-captaincy and Craig White has been passed fit to start the season. He has a pivotal role, especially in the one-day game, probably Yorkshire's best arena. If they are to challenge in the championship, Stemp must spin sides out and McGrath must prove his batting potential.

1995: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 8th. AXA Equity & Law League: 12th. NatWest Trophy: semi-finals. Benson and Hedges Cup: quarter-finals.

1996 STAFF: D Byas (captain), G J Batty, M G Bevan (overseas), R J Blakey, C A Chapman, I D Fisher, D Gough, G M Hamilton, P J Hartley, M J Hoggard, P M Hutchison, R A Kettleborough, A McGrath, A C Morris, M D Moxon, B Parker, M A Robinson, C J Schofield, R J Sidebottom, C E W Silverwood, R D Stemp, M P Vaughan, A G Wharf, C White, M J Wood.

ملحق من الاول

هكذا من الاصل

Leading candidates lack proven ability

FA has time on its side in search for Venables' successor

Getting the right man is far more important for England than getting him right now, argues **David Miller**

IRRESPECTIVE of England's performance in the forthcoming finals of the European championship, the question of a successor to Terry Venables as coach is being regarded with disproportionate urgency. Finding the right man is far more important than the timing.

To make an appointment before the finals, solely for the sake of reaching a decision, would be potentially more damaging than any delay, if England got the wrong man. Given that the hands-on aspect of any England coach is necessarily part-time, it would be possible for Venables to continue on a match-to-match basis until such time as the Football Association was certain of getting a suitably qualified candidate. The platform that Venables has created will not disintegrate overnight.

Finding the right candidate is far more difficult than is at present being admitted. The difficulty is, if anything, emphasised by the relative success that Venables has so far achieved, with one defeat in 16 matches, seven victories and eight draws.

Against Croatia at Wembley on Wednesday night, England were exhibiting, after nearly two years' work and adaptation, a degree of sophistication in their tactics that was most encouraging; not to say unimaginable in the era of Graham Taylor.

The truth is that a manager-coach with proven ability and experience, even approaching that of Venables', does not exist at present. The risk of making an error as serious as the appointment of Taylor in 1990 is, therefore, that much greater.

The FA, ignorant then of what it was doing, sailed happily towards the horizon with Taylor, not pausing to consider that he had never won a significant trophy, had never played senior, let alone international, football, and had handled few international players. He was learning as he went along, hand-in-hand with the players. "Coach," is really the wrong word. The man in charge of an international team has no opportunity to coach. His job is one of selection, player-judgment, choice of tactics, and the *discussion* with intelligent players on how to make the steep transfer from club to national stage.

Venables has managed to do this. A point to remember is that he was the unanimous choice of fellow professionals. His merits had been tried and tested with Queens Park Rangers, Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur — but what of his successor? The most prominent manager in England is Scottish and, whatever logic there might be in considering a foreigner — the FA is not traditionally strong on logic — it is unthinkable that it would contemplate Alex Ferguson, unavoidably perceived in the context of international football as the tartan enemy.

The frontrunners, therefore, are Kevin Keegan, Glenn Hoddle, Gerry Francis and, possibly, Ray Wilkins. None of them, I would say, is as yet ready, never mind whether or not they seek the job. None has, as yet, won a significant trophy, nor demonstrated whether they can handle intense, front-line scrutiny.

Keegan comes closest, and his preference for open play is an appealing qualification. Reality suggests that this might not prosper in the international arena. He needs time.

So does Hoddle. The campaign to promote him seems particularly premature. His own international career oscillated partly on account of managerial hesitancy — lack of conviction — and partially through his own inability to deliver, consistently, those qualities that made him so admired at White Hart Lane.

Furthermore, is Hoddle's temperament tough enough to handle a squad in which all 20 players are, or think they are, star quality? The only real star at Chelsea is a genial, amiable Dutchman. Hoddle needs longer in the club crucible.

It seems to me that there are two options for the FA: the broad-minded, venturesome appointment of an established foreign coach, or the persuasion of Venables. For all his assertion that he does not wish to continue, it is the logical course for both parties. Venables is the first England coach since Sir Alf Ramsey who truly understands the acute difference between the club and the national job.

As Miljan Miljanic, the Yugoslavia manager and now chairman, long ago said: "The club manager selects a squad and tries to find a system that enables them to play. The international coach must choose a system, and then find the players to utilise it."

In other words, the two jobs are exact opposites and, in the second, the manager/coach's assessment of players' abilities and intelligence is even more critical.

Bryan Robson has signed a two-year extension to his contract as the Middlesbrough manager, effectively ruling himself out of contention for the job of England coach when Terry Venables steps down after Euro 96. The deal will keep Robson at Middlesbrough until 1999. Robson, who is understudy to Venables but has repeatedly said that he needs more experience before tackling the England job, said that he was looking forward to signing more quality players for Middlesbrough next season.

MARC ASPLAND

England began to show the kind of sophistication against Croatia at Wembley that Venables has been striving for

Scotland look shaky fore and aft

By Kevin McCarra

AN INTERNATIONAL football match is supposed to serve as a process of elimination, but Scotland's 2-0 defeat in Denmark on Wednesday did not so much whittle down the options of Craig Brown, the manager, as reduce them to matchwood. Although the margin by which his team lost was not traumatic, the ease with which Denmark acquired it, inside the opening 27 minutes, was distressing.

Brown is left to wonder just who he can count upon, for, in Copenhagen, he fielded a team of seasoned players, whose know-how has, in the past, stifled exuberant opponents. That trait completely vanished at the Parken Stadium.

Instead of suffering the smothering attentions of markers, the Laudrup brothers breathed easily in the open spaces that they found so readily. Their moments of trickery produced chagrin among defenders, but, where the goals were concerned, the degree of artifice was not great. The elementary mistakes that created the openings had not been anticipated, even if Calderwood and McLaren, members of Brown's customary three-man defence, were missing through injury.

After all, Boyd and McKimmie, their replacements, have 70 caps between them. Yet they and Hendry, who was hampered by the heavy strapping on a damaged ankle, never seemed clear about the positions that they should take up in relation to one another.

Their absence of rapport alarmed Brown, since his team will need all the hardiness that it can muster come the European championship.

The manager cannot even be sure of reverting to an established line-up, for nobody knows how long Calderwood will need to recover and it can only be hoped that the knee surgery that McLaren is to undergo after the Tennents Scottish Cup final will prove trivial.

Whoever is available, Scotland will have to ensure that they can provide protection to their own goal. While the Laudrups are superb footballers, Denmark, despite being the European champions, do have a handful of nondescripts performers. Yet it was all too easy for them.

In part, their progress went unhindered because Scotland were experimenting. The discovery of an effective partnership in attack is becoming a matter of urgency and Brown hoped that the forwards might have more opportunities to shine if play was carried to Denmark.

Spencer did well enough, even if he was sluggish when given the opportunity to shoot. The technique that he showed with his lay-offs suggested that some as yet unidentified partner could make good use of such service. In Copenhagen, though, Gallacher did not seem suited to the role of central attacker. Brown may well be left to trust in Scott Booth, the Aberdeen forward, who has missed half the season with a groin injury.

Next Thursday, Brown names his party for a trip to the United States and those same men will form the squad for the European championship. The attempt to conjure up solidity from crumbling resources may be the most daunting project of his career.

IN BRIEF

Eastbourne provides Graf's final preparation

STEFFI GRAF, 26, the Wimbledon tennis champion and world No 1, will break with her normal practice of resting during the week before Wimbledon by taking part in the Direct Line International championships at Eastbourne from June 18 to 22. She will be joined at the event by Mary Pierce, the winner of the Australian Open last year.

Eastbourne will boast its best entry for years, with Jana Novotna and Conchita Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion, also appearing.

☐ Greg Rusedski, of Great Britain, the defending champion, was unexpectedly beaten by Martin Dam, of the Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 in the quarter-finals of the Korean Cup in Seoul yesterday.

Regan title bid

Boxing: Robbie Regan, of Wales, has moved up from flyweight to bantamweight to challenge for the World Boxing Organisation title held by Daniel Jiminez, of Puerto Rico, at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, tonight. The powerful Jiminez has already beaten Duke McKenzie, Drew Docherty and Alfred Kotey in British rings.

Beadsworth out

Sailing: Andy Beadsworth, of Great Britain, saw his hopes of a semi-final berth today at the Soling match-racing competition of the French Olympic Classes Regatta at Hyères, dashed when he lost a tie-breaking race to Jochen Shumann, of Germany.

Johnson's debut

Squash: Paul Johnson, 23, the England No 6, will make his debut for England in the European team championships in Amsterdam next month. Del Harris, the England No 1, is injured.

Simple for seeds

Real tennis: Penny Lumley, Sue Haswell and Alex Garside, the top seeds, had simple victories in the second round of the British Land national women's championship at Hayling Island.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

In the refresher last week, we looked at the subject of overcalling and saw how it was more important to have good distribution than good high-card strength. This is also reflected in how you should respond when partner overcalls. If you have a good fit, by all means jump around enthusiastically. If, on the other hand, you have good values with no fit, you should proceed with caution.

What would you bid on the following hands after your left-hand opponent opens One Club and partner overcalls One Spade?

(i) ♠ Q985
♥ 93
♦ A9732
♣ Q6

(ii) ♠ 54
♥ K64
♦ KJ52
♣ AJ105

(i) Three Spades. You have an excellent fit for spades. Even if you go down in Three Spades, you may have stopped your opponents getting together in hearts. Jump support does not show any more than this after an overcall.

(ii) 1 NT. If partner had opened One Spade you would have bid at least 2 NT, but this situation is different. Partner's overcall has removed a fair amount of the opponents' bidding spade and, as we saw last week, his overcall could be on as little as

♠KQ1096 ♥8 ♦Q763 ♣764

A 1 NT response to an overcall shows about 11-12 points.

What would you bid on the same hands after your left-hand opponent opens One Diamond and partner overcalls One Heart?

(i) Pass. If partner had opened One Heart, you would have responded One Spade, but that is not necessary here. If he has a light overcall, you do not want to go any higher, and you will not miss a game even opposite a maximum overcall.

(ii) Two Diamonds. Two Hearts is out as you would raise him on a great deal less than this. We saw in the answer to (a)(i) that a jump raise would show more than this in terms of distribution and less in high cards. The answer is to cue-bid the opponent's suit (the "unassuming cue-bid") to show about 10-12 points with some support for partner. If he is minimum, he will rebid a simple Two Hearts and you can pass. If he has as much as opening-bid values, he will bid more enthusiastically, so you will not miss a good game.

For comprehensive coverage of this subject, try *Step-by-Step Overcalls* by Sally Brock (BT Batsford £8.99).

☐ **EU championships:** The Great Britain mixed and junior teams are still in medal positions with one day to go. The open team also has a chance of a top-three finish.

Standings: Open: 1, Sweden 166; 2, Italy 157; 3, Germany 157; 7, Great Britain 137. **Women:** 1, Austria 172; 2, Belgium 145; 3, France 143; 8, Great Britain 109. **Junior:** 1, Denmark 157; 2, Italy 146; 3, Great Britain 140. **Mixed:** 1, Great Britain 139; 2, France 135.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Kramnik victory

Vladimir Kramnik, from Russia, has clinched victory in the $100,000 Melody Amber tournament in Monaco which combined blindfold games with rapid chess. Kramnik made a steady score in the rapid games but excelled at the blindfold variety.

Final scores were as follows: Kramnik 16; Anand 15; Ivanchuk 14½; Kamsky 12; Karpov, Lautier and Shirov 11½; Piket and Polgar 11; Nikolic 8½; Ljubojevic 5; Xie 4½.

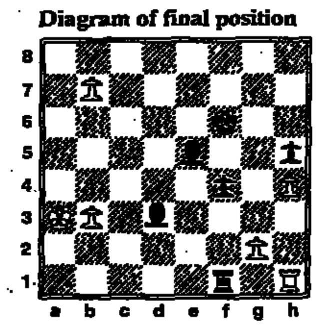
In an extremely strong field, the performances of Anatoly Karpov and Gata Kamsky, the contenders for the Fide (world chess federation) championship, were modest. In this game, from the blindfold section, Kramnik disposes of Kamsky after outplaying him in an endgame.

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Melody Amber, Monaco
April 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 d6
6 Bg5 e6
7 Qd2 a6
8 0-0-0 h6
9 Be3 Nxd4
10 Bxd4 b5
11 Qe3 Bd7
12 e5 dxe5
13 Qxe5 Qb8
14 Qxb8+ Rxb8
15 Bxf6 gxf6
16 Ne4 Bc6
17 Nxf6+ Ke7
18 Nh5 Rg6
19 f3 Rg5
20 Nf4 h5
21 h4 Re5
22 Nd3 Bh6+
23 Kb1 Re3
24 Re1 Rg8
25 Rxe3 Bxe3
26 c3 f5
27 Kc2 Kf6
28 Rh3 f4
29 Kd1 e5
30 Ke2 Bd7
31 Rh1 Bf5
32 Kd1 Rd8
33 Kc2 e4
34 fxe4 Bxe4
35 b3 a5
36 a3 b4
37 axb4 axb4
38 cxb4 Rc8+
39 Kb2 Bd4+
40 Kb1 Ra8
41 Kc1 Ra1+
42 Kd2 Ra2+
43 Kc1 Be3+
44 Kb1 Rd2
45 b5 Rd1+
46 Kc2 Rc1+
47 Kb2 Bxd3
48 b6 Rxd1
49 b7 Bd4+
50 Ka3 Be5
White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By *Philip Howard*

ACRIDIAN
a. From Arcadia
b. A flowering creeper
c. A hopper

GLOIRE DE DIJON
a. A powerful mustard
b. A fast train
c. A yellow rose

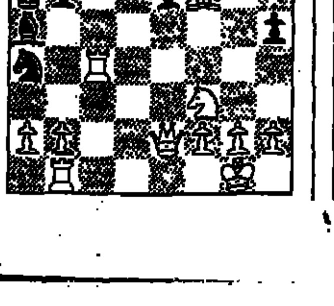
DEGAUSS
a. To protect against mines
b. A mountain scree
c. To eviscerate

CHAMISO
a. A man's chemise
b. A Mexican hat dance
c. A dense shrub

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to move. This is a variation from the game Alekhine — Sterk, Budapest, 1921. The key is the positioning of the queens. A good tactical player would quickly spot the idea 1, Bxg7 Kxg7; 2, Rg4+ attempting to make use of this, but, after 2 ... hxg4! 3, Qxa6 gxf3, Black has plenty of material for the queen. Can you spot a preferable way to exploit this?

Solution on page 46

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Scatter my ashes on right side of the track

It is important to bear in mind that what goes on does not happen for the benefit of the people who are there. It is a service; spectators, while given access, are irrelevant to the overall purpose of the exercise. We are writing of Monmore BAGS.

Oxo is the in-drink, mushy peas cost 35p a cup, with free vinegar available to provide bite. Chips 50p: I thought I had missed the turnstile and got in for free but there is no turnstile; no race cards either — an A4 sheet gives the names, trap numbers and weights of the dogs: Mid Tip Wizard, Hairpin Bend, Wombourne Hooley and Movealong Major, which may not belong to the chairman of the local Tories, may not in fact belong to anyone.

Monmore BAGS then: BAGS stands for Bookmakers Afternoon Greyhound Service, a wheeze whereby betting shops, which might experience a lull in trade between Yarmouth's 3.15 and the 3.25 from Beverley, can screen an event on which their clientele could wager: the 3.21 from Monmore or Oxford or Crayford, Cardiff or Bristol, which are other BAGS meetings.

These are the low men on the totem pole, giving priority to all other events. A voice says: "The dogs are going into the traps," magic words for those of us to whom a betting shop is an important aspect of life, and then, when the bookmakers' satellite television service that beams contests into 11,000 betting shops in the United Kingdom realises that a horse race is delayed, there is a further announcement: "Three minutes to the off." The dogs are given a little walk.

There are, in this fair land of ours, many sporting citizens who doubt the existence of Monmore; few would put their hands on their hearts and give you the track's whereabouts. As with the Indian rope trick, you do not meet anyone with first-hand experience of Monmore, though there are those who say they know someone who has been. I went.

Train to Wolverhampton, asked a taxi driver in the station forecourt if he knew Monmore.

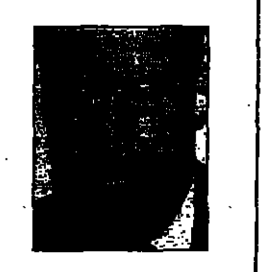
"Dogs?"

"Yes. Do you take many people there?"

"You're the first, ever."

Monmore Green lies quietly off a side street, doing nobody any harm, five minutes drive from the station. It is what knowledgeable greyhound men describe as a good galloping track. For the rest of us, it is a sanded oval of about 400 metres with an outside hare.

The track receives £5,000 a meeting to stimulate business in betting parlours: all is well run and straight; every dog's earmark is checked to ensure that it is the dog it should be; each one has a urine test to deter foul play. There are four bookmakers to create a market ... just not many spectators.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

An actors' Equity ruling determined that players did not have to appear on stage unless they were outnumbered by the audience. If the dogs had struck a similar deal, it would have been touch and go whether the meeting to which I went would have happened.

There were about 80 greyhounds. We were 93 ... not counting the women behind the tea counter, the barman, the manager, the vet and the judge, the kennel maids, the tote operators and the SIS cameraman: the commentary comes from somewhere else in England given by a man watching the pictures from the track.

I sat in a glass-fronted terrace restaurant at a ledge, where one might have hoped for a table; next to me was a family: granny, son and granddaughter with Thermos flasks, food, *The Sporting Life* and toys for the child.

"Do you come here very often?" I ask granny, who was glaring at me.

"Every meeting," she said, "and we sit where you are sitting."

I move; she smiles and offers me a cheese sandwich wrapped in four or five layers of cling film, possibly to put off the moment when you have to eat it.

On the far side of the course is a large hoarding bearing the message: "Advertise your business here."

A small blue tractor harrows the track after each race: I think I would like my ashes to be scattered here.

Beneath the stands, there is a betting shop with television screens; if you should feel that Monmore does not give full rein to your eagerness, you can have bets at the other places from which SIS beams contests.

Quite a lot of people — well, about eight — stayed in the betting shop throughout, even watching the action that they could have seen live by taking half a dozen steps to the terrace. "A tuna fish butty, a cup of mushy peas and a 50p forecast Two Dog to beat Four Dog," would be their version of the Omar Khayyam's concept of bliss.

Young squire with his sights set on Atlanta conquest

Andrew Longmore meets a British marksman with Olympic ambition echoing an historic call to arms

WHEN Richard Faulds shoots for Great Britain at the Olympic Games this summer, only the elders of a Hampshire village will know how strongly local tradition is being upheld. Faulds lives in Longparish, which numbers the former cricket correspondent of *The Times* among its present distinguished residents, but which was once home to Colonel Peter Hawker, an outstanding soldier, a prolific writer and one of the most brilliant shots of his day.

Hawker fought with distinction under Wellington in the Peninsular War and, in 1814, published his *Instructions to Young Sportsmen*, which is still regarded as an essential manual for shooters. Even the redoubtable colonel might, however, have been surprised by Faulds's astonishing progress to the top of his sport at the tender age of 19.

From the moment, nine years ago, that he first picked up a gun, Faulds has needed precious little instruction. He hit 17 out of 25 clays in his first lesson, was junior world champion at 16, successfully defending the title twice. As a junior, he was twice runner-up for the senior title. The week before his first junior world championships, his school PE report announced that his hand-to-eye co-ordination was very poor. So poor that he finished third, aged 14.

In one sense, the PE teacher was right. Faulds cannot hit a golf ball to save his life, but the fact that, as a child, the sight in his left eye was so bad that it was thought that he may need glasses, makes his prodigious talent all the more remarkable. He had to do special dot-to-dot exercises to strengthen that eye. He now shoots left-handed, left eye dominant.

Today, Faulds competes in the double trap shooting event in the World Cup in Atlanta, a dress rehearsal for the summer. It is not his preferred discipline.

In double trap, two clays 11cm in radius — "birds" in the trade — are launched from a trench 17 yards in front of the shooters and travel in a shallow 55-metre arc, at about 60mph, three metres off the ground away from the line of shooters. Imagine trying to hit two upturned spinning saucers side-on from 40 yards. You have to hit the first on the rise, the second at the apex of its flight. There is a split second between firing the two shots and, if the first misses, the second will too. The world record is 192 out of 200. Faulds's best is 188.

"It's a test of concentration as much as skill," Faulds said. "Anyone could go up there, shoot five pairs and get ten out of ten, but it's the last five or ten pairs which count. You can get very tired, relax a little because it's getting near the end and you miss. It's amazing how many people miss the very last pair." An errant butterfly, a wayward fly, a fleck of pollen, the slightest distraction can disrupt the rhythm of a shooter.

Gamesmanship is not unknown. One trick is to eject a cartridge onto the floor just as the man at the next station is about to fire, the shooting equivalent of the Ballesteros cough in golf.

It would take more than the click of a cartridge, one suspects, to upset the young Englishman's equilibrium. He has the ideal temperament for a sport that requires the ultimate control of emotion and muscle. He thrives on pressure and regards the mild scolding of his doting mother as the height of anger. Shooting is his passion. He has not missed a Sunday shoot for six years.

When he was involved in a car crash last year, his first instinct was not to check his own wellbeing or that of the the car — the former unscathed, the latter a write-off — but to find whether his gun was damaged. It was. A box of cartridges had smashed the stock and Faulds was inconsolable until a replacement was made. The gun is a Spanish-made Kemen weighing 8¾lb with a 32in barrel, the maximum length allowed. The stock has been bent a fraction of an inch out of true to fit snugly into Faulds's shoulder, the original orange sighter Tippex-ed white.

Tall, well-built, fresh faced with curling fair hair, dressed in sensible sweater, checked shirt and corduroy trousers, Faulds looks every inch the young squire. His father, Bruce, is a farmer, who had a private double trap built for Richard (the nearest one was in Cheltenham); his mother, Sue, provides a running commentary on her son's exploits — "don't forget you finished third in the Europeans, dear" — but neither will be in Atlanta this summer. Richard has forbidden it.

His goal for the Olympics is to qualify for the final-six shoot-out. From there, he reckons, anything is possible — even a gold for Longparish. It is too much to expect. There is plenty of time yet. The world champion last year was 48. "I hope to be still blazing away in 50 years' time," Faulds said. "I don't want to do anything else." The colonel would applaud the instinct.

JULIAN HERBERT

Caught in a trap: Faulds in practice at his parents' farm in Hampshire

Belated show of talent lifts Baker

From Mel Webb
in Valencia

IT WAS only a little more than a week ago that Peter Baker admitted that, in spite of his best efforts, his considerable golfing talent had been largely unfulfilled, and that, at the age of 28, he was intent on doing something about it. Yesterday, he did, producing a round that put him in a challenging position in the Turespaña Masters.

One of the tests of a great golf course is that it should be a stern challenge even in perfect conditions, and in this respect the glorious links of El Saler passed its first-round test with flying colours.

Yes, there were low scores: the lead was shared by Fabrice Tarnaud, Diego Borrego and Ross McFarlane on 66, six under par, with Baker one of four players a shot behind. Yet there was also more than the odd catastrophe, including the minor but not totally unexpected one of Severiano Ballesteros shooting a humble 76 to be ten shots off the pace and facing yet another weekend away from the course.

Granted, his golf is in tatters, yet the feeling persists that his main problem exists in a troubled mind.

El Saler rewards good golf, but is unremittingly cruel to anything less and, in that respect, Baker could be satisfied with his work. He made only two obvious errors, missing the fairway on the 16th, his 7th, and three-putting the 4th, both for bogeys.

Those slips apart, it was an unrelieved story of sound driving, accurate irons and confident putting. His seven birdies showed clearly that a potentially damaging experience the day before had had no effect on him.

Baker came into the tournament having played the pro-am on Wednesday with two journalists — one female and Spanish, the other English, male, and, shall we say, vertically challenged — plus an 11-year-old Spanish schoolboy by the name of Carlos del Moral. No, that is not a misprint — he is, repeat, 11.

Del Moral, who won the Spanish championship for his age-group last year and plays off 12, caused a few eyebrows to be raised when he unfurled an immaculate technique and dispatched his first drive more than 200 yards down the middle of the fairway.

"That's put a bit of pressure on you," Baker said with a small but malicious grin, relishing a rare chance to get his retaliation in first on a member of the Fourth Estate.

"Sure has," the diminutive scribbler replied. "Still, it makes a change to be playing with somebody smaller than myself." It is pleasing to report that, over the 18 holes, he managed to preserve the honour of British golfing punditry and emerge with dignity intact — just.

Scores, page 42

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

ACRIDIAN
(c) Of or pertaining to an orthopterous insect of the family *Acridiidae*, comprising certain locusts and grasshoppers. From the Greek *akris, akrid-* a locust. T. S. Eliot, translation of *St John Perse's Anabasis*, 1930: "My heart gives heed to a family of acridians."

GLOIRE DE DIJON
(c) A yellow hybrid tea-rose, "the glory of Dijon". D. H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, 1928: "She still lay naked and faintly golden like a Gloire de Dijon rose in the bed."

DEGAUSS
(a) To protect a ship against magnetic mines by encircling it with an electrically charged cable (called the *degaussing belt* or *girdle*), so as to demagnetise it. Also, in extended use, to remove unwanted magnetism from, to demagnetise. An eponym of K. F. *Gauss* a German scientist (1777-1855). "A device which makes a ship incapable of affecting the magnetic needle in the mine. It takes the form of an electric cable following the line of the hull round the ship's upper deck or bulwark."

CHAMISO
(c) A Californian evergreen shrub, *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, from the Mexican Spanish. *Chamisal* is a dense thicket of *chamiso*. "One afternoon they located a grizzly, and ran him into a field of chamiso bush."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rg4! Qxe2; 2. Rxg7+ Kh8; 3. Ng5! and Black is defenceless against 4. Rh7+ and 5. Rh8.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
Bradford v Brentford (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde United v Droylsden.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Burnley v Aston Villa (7.15).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division (7.45): Bohemians v Shamrock; Drogheda v Sligo, St Patrick's Ath v Shelbourne.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Haverhill v Felixstowe Port and Town.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Kent President Shield: Semi-final: North Kent v Dover (at Cobdown, 6.15). London Dewar Cup: Final: Woodside v Richard Challoner (at Macmillan Stadium, 6.30).

CRICKET

Benson And Hedges Cup
11.0, 50 overs
THE PARKS: British Universities v Kent
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v Durham
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Essex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Sussex
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Ireland
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Minor Counties
LORD'S: Middlesex v Somerset
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Leicestershire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Northamptonshire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire

RUGBY UNION

Heineken League
First division
Neath v Llanelli (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation bantamweight championship: Robbie Regan (Wales) v Daniel Jiminez (Puerto Rico, holder) (Cardiff)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY (7.30): Premier League: Belle Vue v London. Speedway Star Cup: First round, first leg: Oxford v Swindon. Second round, first leg: Peterborough v Coventry

TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Edinburgh)

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The legacy of Auschwitz

50 Years Later. *Radio 3, 8.20pm.*

I vividly recall — who could ever forget them — Anita Lasker-Wallfisch's talks on Radio 3 about her experiences in Auschwitz and Belsen. The series' generic title was *Inherit the Truth*. In *50 Years Later*, she defines that inheritance. Instead of reprising harrowing personal memories, she uses them to explain what lessons they taught her and, by implication, what we should learn from them. Coming from her lips, her plea for us not to poison our minds with hatred is not remotely platitudinous. Nor does it sound simplistic when she suggests that, to help cure the world's ills, everyone should spend six months of the year being what she was — a displaced person.

Beyond Reasonable Doubt. *Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.*

Recommendable even at half an hour, this programme shrieks for another 30 minutes. The case of Lock Ah Tam was highly complex. Highly respected by the Merseyside Chinese community that he often helped, a kindly man and loving husband, he nonetheless shot dead his wife and two daughters. No apparent motive. No medical explanation except the possibility that an earlier attack on him might have caused epileptic automatism. Rib Davis's reconstruction of the case, with Robert Kee narrating and Denys Hawthorne as that celebrated worker of courtroom miracles Marshall Hall, leaves some strings dangling.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 1.00am Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00 Annie Nightingale

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kelner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Judi Spiers 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 For Love Not Money (6/6) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Austin Mitchell. *Radio 2 Arts Programme* 12.05am Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Diana Madill, incl Video Review, Euronews and at 11.00 Science News 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News; 3.05 and 3.40 Racing from Sandown Park 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.20 Friday Sport. A preview of tomorrow's Rugby League Challenge Cup Final 9.35 Sports Shop. A new series with Adrian Goldberg examining the consumer side of sport 10.05 Paper Talk. Another new series, this time with Brian Alexander and Phil Murphy exploring the British press 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe Today 5.45 Folk Routes 6.00 News 6.30 Europe Today 6.45 Words and Music 6.50 The Insider's Guide 7.00 News 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Blues World 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 UFO's Fact or Fiction? 9.00 News in German 9.15 Music Review 9.45 Soundbyte 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00 News 12.30pm Meridian 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science in Action 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.10 World Today 6.25 Spotlight 6.30 News in German 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 News 9.00 News 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack: Alternative 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00 News 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 The Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multitrack: Alternative 1.00 News 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.00 News 3.30 Meridian 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 The Vintage Chart Show

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Showcase 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00 Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00 Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air.** Presented by Andrew MacGregor. Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in D, Op 7 No 12); Barber (Symphony No 1); Schubert (Allegretto in C minor, D 915); Biber (*Battalia a 10 in D*); Mulet (Carillon-Sortie); Falla (The Three-Cornered Hat, Part 2)

9.00 **Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini.** Grieg (Four Norwegian Dances); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor)

10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Stephanie Hughes. Bernstein, arr Penalorte (America, West Side Story) 10.05 *Artists of the Week*: The Sixteen under Harry Christophers. Bach (Cantata No 147: Herz un Mund und Tat und Leben); Franck (Symphonic Variations); Lili Boulanger (Pie Jesu); Haydn (The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross, 1st mvt); Weill (Seven Deadly Sins)

12.00 **Composer of the Week: Szymanowski.** Mazurkas, Op 50 Nos 1, 2 and 4; String Quartet No 2; Mazurka Op 62 No 1

1.00pm **Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Stravinsky Plus.** Chris de Souza introduces another of the series of concerts recorded at St Georges, Branden Hill featuring chamber music by Igor Stravinsky. Includes, Schumann (Adagio and allegro in A flat); Stravinsky (Elegy for solo viola); Shostakovich (Viola Sonata, Op 147)

2.00 **Schools** Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner

3.00 **The Bach Archive.** A new series with Nicholas Anderson exploring the vast BBC collection of recordings of Bach's keyboard music, amassed over the last 60 years

5.00 **The Music Machine,** with Tommy Pearson. Today he is joined by the jazz saxophonist Courtney Pine

5.15 **In Tune,** with Andrew Green. Includes, Ravel (Tzigane); Shostakovich (Festive Overture); Grainger (Brigg Fair)

7.30 **The BBC National Orchestra of Wales,** with Dong-Suk Kang, violin, under Tadaaki Otaka. Live from the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea. Dvořák (Carnival Overture); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D minor) 8.20 50 Years Later. See Choice 8.40 Smetana (From Bohemia's Wood and Fields; Vltava; Sarka, Ma vlast); Enescu (Romanian Rhapsoy No 1 in A)

9.40 **Epics of Everyday Life.** Susan Richards's account of life during the break up of the Soviet Union. Read by Elaine Claxton (4/4)

10.00 **Here and Now.** Robert Zeigler introduces a concert, focusing on the music and life of Harrison Birtwhistle, recorded at the Secret Theatres Festival in London. Includes Birtwhistle (Ritual Fragment); Simon Holt (Daedalus Remembers); Birtwhistle (Slow Frieze; Verses for Ensemble)

12.00-1.00am **Composer of the Week: Debussy.** Includes, Juex, 12 etudes pour piano (Nos 4-7), Violin Sonata (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 **News 9.05 Desert Island Discs.** Author Hanif Kureishi talks to Sue Lawley (r)

9.45 **Feedback** with Chris Dunkley

10.00-10.30 **News; Beyond Reasonable Doubt (FM** only). See Choice (6/6)

10.00 **An Act of Worship** (LW only)

10.15 **This Sceptr'd Isle** (LW only)

10.30 **Woman's Hour.** Novelist Stevie Davies talks to Shahnaz Pakravan

11.30 **The Natural History Programme**

12.00 **News; You and Yours**

12.25pm **The Food Programme** 12.55 Weather

1.00 **The World at One** with Nick Clarke

1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 **News; The Classic Serial: The Constant Nymph** by Margaret Kennedy, dramatised by Louise Paige (2/2) (r)

3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**

4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.** Tim Marlow considers the history of British art

4.45 **Short Story: My Mother, My Father and Me,** by Kate Pullinger. Read by Michelle Collins

5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 **Six O'Clock News**

6.30 **Going Places** with David Stafford

7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**

7.20 **Pick of the Week**

8.05 **Any Questions?** Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical debate in Stockton-on-Tees with Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the Liberal Democrats' Spokesperson on Northern Ireland; Genista McIntosh, executive director of the Royal National Theatre; Estelle Morris, MP, a member of Labour's education team; and Steven Norris, MP, undersecretary of state for the Department of Transport

8.50 **Points of Departure.** Charles Wheeler talks about his coverage of the 1956 Hungarian Uprising as a producer for the BBC's *Panorama* (6/6) (r)

9.15 **Letter from America,** by Alistair Cooke

9.30 **Kaleidoscope Feature: Striking Image.** An exploration of the cultural influence of the game of football (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Robin Lustig

10.45 **Book at Bedtime: A Shropshire Lad,** by A.E. Houseman. Derek Jacobi reads the final instalment in this collection of poems (5/5)

11.00 **Week Ending.** Sally Grace, Toby Longworth and the team take a satirical look at the week's news

11.25 **Tea Junction** with Patrick Hannan

11.45 **Today in Parliament**

12.00 **News** 12.27am Weather 12.30 **The Late Book: Lipstick on the Host** by Aidan Mathews. Read by Pauline McLynn (5/7) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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Bang to rights, or the victim of noises off?

Zzzat! Could you keep that noise in mind for the next few minutes? According to one who literally had first-hand experience, it is the noise that the Unabomber's pipe-bombs make when they go off. For three people it was the last sound they heard on earth, for 23 others it marked the beginning of months, even years, of pain, suffering and stress. Zzzzat went the bomb and bang went a young pilot's chance of playing the guitar again, let alone realising his ambition of flying to the Moon. He was one of the lucky ones.

At times during last night's grimly fascinating **Witness: Unabomber** (Channel 4) it was difficult to concentrate on things that went zzzzat at all times of the day and night. There was so much other "weird stuff" going on, not least of which was the advancement of an obscene but quite credible prediction — that the Unabomber will become an American folk hero, a focus for those who share his distaste for a society dominated by technology.

A few years ago the Unabomber's story would have been an all-American affair. But now, primed as we have been by *The X Files* and *Twin Peaks*, we know almost as much about this sort of thing as our American cousins. So it came as no surprise when what the story came down to was that there was something nasty in the woods of Montana.

According to the FBI, that something nasty is Theodore Kaczynski — loner, academic drop-out and alleged Unabomber. I say alleged out of habit. Americans have never been great believers in the law of sub judice and, with the Atlantic Ocean bolstering their confidence, the makers of the programme followed their lead. The Feds had got their man.

And what a man. As Gar Smith, an environmentalist with a well-rehearsed set of one-liners, put it, the man whose campaign of postal terror had lasted 17 years turned out to be straight from central casting: "The hair was perfect, the make-up was perfect — he was Hollywood made-to-order for the mad scientist, the perfect image of a social malcontent." You see, you're forgetting already. *Zzzzat*.

Joanna Head, director, and Anne Webber, producer, did an excellent job of telling the Unabomber's story to an audience whose knowledge probably begins and ends with that haunting photofit of a cowled head, the face hidden by a pair of aviator sunglasses. In fact, as one of the programme's rare lighter moments revealed, Kaczynski favoured a straw hat and flip-ups for everyday wear around his home town of Lincoln. *Zzzzat*.

Victims, investigators, criminal psychologists — they all made their contribution, but it was the thoughts of Kirkpatrick Sale that suggested the programme was right in believing that the Unabomber's story may begin with Kaczynski's arrest rather than end. Sale is a neo-Luddite, one of a growing band of Americans never happier than when they are taking a sledgehammer to a computer screen. "We don't approve of his means, they are quite irrational, quite mad. But his core ends ... well, they make a lot of sense." Scary, very scary.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

But nothing like as scary as "Bianga" and her long-awaited fashion show in **EastEnders** (BBC1). As the great day dawned, Ricky, perhaps for the first time in his unhappy life, spoke for us all: "I'll be glad when all this is over." Bianga, of course, was loving every minute, despite the shrill concern that she was "working with ama'eurs".

The show was eventually a great success, spurring the Albert Square business community to new heights of optimism. Everybody, it seems, is going into business — Bianga is going into business ("I want 100 per cent the next time"), Gilda and Sanjay are going into extra business, Ian is buying yet another business ... even Nigel is contemplating forsaking the life of potman at the Queen Vic for a flirtation with free enterprise. The next issue of the Conservative Party's "good news" paper will not lack for material.

Bravely and possibly without precedent, the producers went for two comic storylines in one episode, with the light-fingered Sarah falling not into the grubby mitts of a lecherous shop manager, as we all believed, but the squeaky-clean hands of a couple of evangelical Christians. "Jesus loves you, Sarah." And just to prove it a little miracle was arranged — fierce father Ted never discovered she had slipped out of the house. To a girl at a difficult age, this was right up there with Dirty Den rising again.

The misery quotient was, as ever, maintained by Pauline ("this has been the worst six months of my life" — hmm, tough call), who is now off to Jersey with Willie and a suitcase full of cash, and by Carol and Alan, still locked in the row from nowhere and apparently heading for disaster. Their scenes may have been short of jokes but Lindsey Coulson and Howard Antony took the acting honours.

The one positive thing about a Thursday night that includes *Secrets of the Paranormal* and *Hollywood Pets* is that **Ellington** (ITV) almost looks good in comparison. Almost, but not quite. Last night's was as disappointing as those that preceded it — flawed by pitiful humour (with the exception of a nice visual gag about mobile phones), woeful characterisation and a determination to occupy the moral high ground, regardless of the cost to credibility. Two unimaginative plots concerned footballer managers paying "bungs" and athletes taking steroids. "It's cheating, it's wrong," shouted Ellington at regular intervals. It's unbelievable.

● *Lynne Truss is on holiday*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (10626)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (41937)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7482268)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7609930)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (1763423)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (84133)
12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6461133)
12.05pm World Championship Snooker (s) (8249423)
12.35 Going for Gold Henry Kelly hosts the general knowledge quiz (s) (3390881)
1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (44084)
1.30 Regional News and weather (94049978)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44141442)
2.00 Moon over Miami (Ceefax) (s) (5698626)
2.50 Today's Gourmet (s) (6664571) **3.15 Secret Life of Toys** (r) (s) (8398152)
3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (1280336) **3.50 Monster Cafe** (r) (s) (8497171) **4.05 Casper Classics** (r) (s) (5437492) **4.10 Little Mouse on the Prairie** (Ceefax) (s) (2470423) **4.35 Clarissa Explains It All** (r) (Ceefax) (9079133) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1582084) **5.10 Blue Peter** *(Ceefax) (s) (1788688)*
5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (127862)
6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (249)
6.30 Regional news magazines (201)
7.00 Wipeout. Paul Daniels hosts the game show. (Ceefax) **WALES: 7.00-7.30** Don't Look Back (2775)
7.30 CHOICE **Tomorrow's World.** Science magazine (Ceefax) (s) (713)
8.00 Hi-De-Hi! After a secret visit to the camp, Joe Maplin decides that Gladys should be put in charge of the yellowcoats (r) (Ceefax) (1423)
8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined *by Jamie Redknapp, Lawrence Dallaglio,* Richard Dunwoody and Nasser Hussain (Ceefax) (s) (2030)
9.00 Party Election Broadcast by the Green Party (Ceefax) (s) (805797)
9.05 News *(Ceefax) and weather (437713)*
9.35 999. Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris present more extraordinary true stories of heroic rescues, including a runaway sledge which catapults a boy into an icy river in the Cairngorms, and a safety crew which has to break its own rules to rescue a man overcome by fumes in an underground petrol tank. (Ceefax) (s) (636220)
10.30 FILM Blue Ice (1992) with Michael Caine, Sean Young and Ian Holm A *former intelligence officer encounters an* American ambassador's wife and is drawn into a plot involving murder, illegal arms and corruption Directed by Russell Mulcahy (Ceefax) (s) (83445268)
12.10 FILM: Hiding Out (1988) with Jon Cryer, Keith Coogan and Annabeth Gish. A stockbroker is about to testify against a dangerous mobster when he discovers there is a contract out on his life. He skips town and heads for refuge in a suburb, *where he poses as a high-school student* in order to dodge his pursuers. Directed by Bob Giraldi (8120282)
1.40am Weather (5022282)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Biology (7216978) **6.25** The Three Estates (7228713) **6.50** Sassetti Chapel, Santa Trinita (8202355)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4396978)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (32862) **8.00 The Really Wild Show** (Ceefax) (s) (1902084) **8.25 The Little Polar Bear** (r) (4629626) **8.30 William's Wish Wellingtons** (r) (s) (1022125)
8.40 The Record. Yesterday in Parliament (s) (8129065)
9.05-2.00pm Daytime on Two Educational programmes, including
12.00 CHOICE **English File: Death of a Salesman** (93256)
12.30 Working Lunch presented by Adrian Chiles (37607)
2.00 The Little Polar Bear (r) (s) (73200220) **2.05 William's Wish Wellingtons** (r) (s) (73209591)
2.10 Open View A preview of Open University programmes (s) (73291572)
2.15 World Championship Snooker (s) (34302607)
6.00 Shooting Stars (r) (Ceefax) (s) (591)
6.30 The Champions. Fantasy espionage series (r) (Ceefax) (185423)
7.20 Watch Out. Wildlife news (s) (989171)
7.30 The Transatlantic Sessions. Including Davy Spillane, Karen Matheson and Iris Dement (Ceefax) (s) (355) **N.I.: 7.30** Two Left Feet
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Tiff Needell samples the joys of GT racing at Silverstone (Ceefax) (s) (9065)

Gardener Gay Search (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Gardeners' World** (Ceefax) (s) (8572)
9.00 World Championship Snooker (s) *(9751)*
10.00 Have I Got News for You. Comedy quiz hosted by Angus Deayton. Featuring celebrity contestants Ian Hislop, Eddie Izzard and Janet Street-Porter (Ceefax) (s) (43715)
10.30 Party Election Broadcast by the Green Party (Ceefax) (s) (796171)
10.35 Newsnight (Ceefax) (290862)
11.20 Fantasy Football League (s) (878249) **WALES: 11.20** Welsh Lobby (878249) **11.50** Fantasy Football Leauge (489539) **12.20am** This Life (1246060) **1.00** Weather (7300060) **1.05** World Championship Snooker (8849669) **2.05** Film: Happy We (171060)
11.50 This Life (r) (Ceefax) (s) (327775)
12.35am World Championship Snooker (s) (4977379)
1.35 FILM: Happy We (1983) with Brasse Brannstrom. Two university friends meet 20 years on and compare notes about their lives Directed by Lasse Hallstrom (Swedish with English subtitles) (880350) Ends at **3.30**

CHOICE

English File: Death of a Salesman
BBC2, midday

Family recriminations intensify as Arthur Miller's Brooklyn antihero, played with pathetic dignity by Warren Mitchell, edges nearer to the abyss. Part two of David Thacker's appropriately claustrophobic production contains the memorable speech from Willy Loman's stoical wife (Rosemary Harris) in which she sets out the essence of the play. Willy is not rich or famous, nor the finest character who ever lived, but a small man's tragedy can be just as terrible as a great one's. A noted stage director, not least of Miller's works, Thacker here exploits the fluidity of the television camera and its ability, through the close-up, to home in on emotion. Willy and his sons may talk boldly *of plans for the future but they are hopelessly* trapped and the production underlines this by setting them against a dark background.

Tomorrow's World
BBC1, 7.30pm

Not always noted for the gravity of its items, *Tomorrow's World* makes amends with a big'un. It is about keeping air travel safe when the number of passengers is calculated to double to six million a day in the next 20 years. *Air traffic controllers currently rely on* radar to identify the position of aircraft. The snag is that much of the world has no radar cover. The programme checks out an alternative system which tracks aircraft movements with satellites. It promises to cut hours off journey times and to allow a doubling of flights on the already busy north Atlantic route. After this, a new weapon against jewel thieves may seem a small thing. But a laser which can produce a "*fingerprint" for an individual diamond is* nothing if not ingenious. It is based on the fact that every diamond scatters light in a different way.

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

An otherwise unremarkable Hertfordshire garden gains added interest through its late owner, Roald Dahl, writer of enduring tales for children, did not claim to be green-fingered but the horticultural enthusiasm of Felicity, his wife, rubbed off. Dahl's story *James and the Giant Peach Tree* was inspired by a peach tree in his garden and if he penned no comparable adventure about the onion, it was a vegetable in which he took special pride. He also enjoyed his arbour of lime trees and pruned them himself. His widow gives Gay Search a guided tour. On the practical side the avuncular Geoff Hamilton celebrates what we hope is the *onset of spring with a consumer guide to* lawnmowers. With more than an acre of grass to cut, he speaks with authority.

Father Ted
Channel 4, 9.30pm

As the Graham Linehan-Arthur Matthews sit-com sadly approaches the end of its second series, its success continues to evoke surprise. It is as if an amiable tale of three variously hopeless Irish priests and their *imperious housekeeper is not the stuff of* which good comedy can possibly be made. But good comedy does not need a cutting edge or even originality. It needs to be funny and *Father Ted*, in its easy-going and incongruous way, is indisputably that. The key is the sheer pace of the show, its moves orchestrated with as much precision as in a French farce. To this add the deceptively skilled performances, led by Dermot Morgan as the naive but resourceful Ted and Ardal O'Hanlon as his dotty curate. A bit late, tonight's plot compels the clerics to offer sacrifices for Lent. You start laughing almost before the titles roll. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (5907864)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7623249)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6447685)
10.00 The Time ... the Place (s) (2042981)

Finnegan and Madeley (10.35pm)

10.35 This Morning presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan (44843881)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6467317)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3393978)
12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (7345775) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (54230404) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (54259539) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (4588713)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (7350268)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7359539)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (r) (s) (8479775) **3.45 Zzzap!** (r) (s) (8467930) **4.00 Talespin** (r) (s) (2577355) **4.25 The Geeks** *(Teletext) (s) (2570442)* **4.55 Hang On** (s) (4532336)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (9670210)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (676713)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (123607)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (226268)
6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (182510)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Couples test their knowledge of public opinion (Teletext) (s) (7341)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (881)
8.00 The Bill: Value Added. Hollis goes undercover in pursuit of the unscrupulous owner of a clip joint (Teletext) (6591)
8.30 The Upper Hand. Caroline discovers a different Charlie (r) (Teletext) (s) (5626)
9.00 Soldier, Soldier. The officers rebuild A Company's morale after the death of Vinny Bowles (r) (Teletext) (s) (4607)
10.00 News *and weather (Teletext) (97591)*
10.30 Party Election Broadcast by the Green Party (790997)
10.35 HTV West News and weather (415794)
10.45 Entertaining Mr Wedlock. Behind the scenes of the entertainment business (377794)
11.15 FILM: Longarm (1988) with John T Tenesky and Whitney Kershaw Comedy about a tough US marshal's attempts to end the lawlessness of the post-Civil War New Mexico territory. Directed by Virgil Vogel (428022)
12.35 Hotel Babylon (s) (7255737)
1.15 The Good Sex Guide ... Late (s) (762447)
2.15 FILM: A Man and a Woman (1966) with Anouk Aimee, Jean-Louis Trintignant and Pierre Barouh. Oscar-winning French romantic drama. Directed by Claude Lelouch (104398)
4.05 **Not Fade Away** *(r) (s) (5615027)*
5.00 On the Live Side (92282)
5.30 Morning News (87263)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
2.50pm-3.20 Wish You Were Here ...? (4588713)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (381510)
10.45 Friday Live (344626)
11.45 Hunter (281684)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (6475336)
12.55 Coronation Street (3301997)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79727133)
1.55 Home and Away (58324686)
2.25 High Road (54233591)
2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (1919828)
5.10 Home and Away (9670210)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (32152)
10.35 Westcountry News (406046)
10.50 Film: Stand Up Virgin Soldiers (28721355)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3301997)
1.25 Chain Letters (79727133)
1.55 A Country Practice (44122317)
5.10 Shortland Street (9670210)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (381510)
10.45 Magnum (15255084)
12.40am Hotel Babylon (7245350)
1.20 The Good Sex Guide ... Late (8832379)
2.20 The Chart Show (7332602)
3.15 Dear Nick (7726242)
4.10 Jobfinder (8134089)
5.20 Asian Eye (1720466)

MERIDIAN

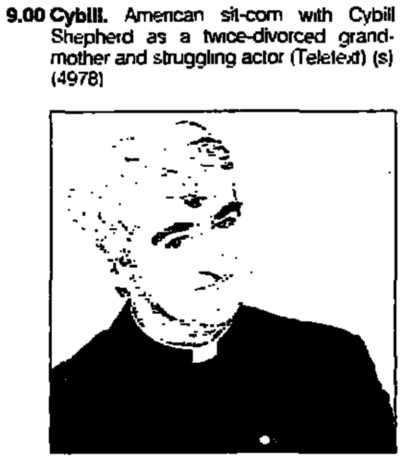
As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3301997)
1.25 Home and Away (79727133)
1.55 A Country Practice (44122317)
5.10 Home and Away (9670210)
5.37 Three Minutes - Your Story (868268)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weekend Weather (676713)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (32152)
10.00-10.30 News at Ten; Weather (97591)
10.35 Meridian News and Weather (492133)
11.35 Only a Game! (470881)
12.05am *Tales from the Crypt* (1232114)
5.00 Freescreen (92282)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (8276930) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34607) **9.00 The Golden Girls** (14268) **9.30 Film: Back Room Boy** (17354) **11.00 Cuttinge Edge** (33978) **12.00 Sesame Street** (34510) **1.00pm Slot Meithrin** (37794) **1.30 Blue Wilderness** (68857539) **1.55 Jimmy's** (68825930) **2.25 Channel 4 Racing From Sandown** (64086046) **4.30 An Inspector Calls** (794) **5.00 Pump: Noc Noc Odyni** (5249) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (666) **6.00 Newyddion** (589249) **6.15 Heno** (153666) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (401317) **7.25 Jiw! Jiw!** (669220) **8.00 Junior Cup** (4133) **8.30 Newyddion** (3268) **9.00 Snwcer: Pencampwriaeth** (4978) **9.30 Wild Britain** (42539) **10.00 Brookside** (95133) **10.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else?** (202607) **11.10 Eurotrash** (871336) **11.40 Flava** (871171) **12.15am T.F.I. Friday** (5357195) **1.20 Film: The Bachelor Party** (523553)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (r) (8276930)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (34607)
9.00 The Golden Girls (r) (Teletext) (s) (14268)
9.30 FILM: Back Room Boy (1942, b/w) with Arthur Askey as a bumbling BBC employee who is sent to a remote lighthouse where he encounters Nazi spies Directed by Herbert Mason (17354)
11.00 Comrades (r) (Teletext) (33978)
12.00 Fruity Stories (r) (Teletext) (s) (94404)
12.30pm Sesame Street (r) (68030) **1.30 Alfred J. Kwak** (r) (68857539) **1.55 Jimmy's** (r) (Teletext) (s) (68825930)
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. Live coverage of the **2.35, 3.05, 3.40** and **4.10** races (s) (64086046)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (794) **5.00 Rescue** (r) (Teletext) (s) (5249) **5.30 An Inspector Calls** (r) (Teletext) (s) (666)
6.00 T.F.I. Friday. Last in the series presented live by Chris Evans Guests include the actor Richard E. Grant and Zig and Zag Music is provided by the Cure and Sleeper (s) (30794)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (416065)
7.55 Book Choice John Carey reviews A.S Byatt's *Babel Tower* (Teletext) (s) (759626)
8.00 Fruity Stories. The last in the series takes a look at the vanishing fruit of Britain and what can be done to save our native species (Teletext) (s) (4133)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (3268)
9.00 Cybill. American sit-com with Cybill Shepherd as a twice-divorced grandmother and struggling actor (Teletext) (s) (4978)



Dermot Morgan as Fr Ted (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Father Ted: Cigarettes and Alcohol and Rollerblading** (Teletext) (s) (42539)
10.00 Roseanne. Dan leaves the garage with an extended holiday planned and a pension cheque in his pocket that he wants to invest. Roseanne sees Disney World beckoning(Teletext) (s) (95133)
10.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else? More topical satirical impressions (s) (202607)
11.10 Eurotrash. *Antoine de Caunes and Jean* Paul Gaultier with another collection of items in doubtful taste (s) (871336)
11.40 Flava. The third in the eight-part celebration of black music styles (s) (871171)
12.15am T.F.I. Friday. As 6.00pm (s) (5357195)
1.20 FILM: The Bachelor Party (1957, b/w) with Don Murray, Patricia Smith, Jack Warden and Larry Blyden. As the drink begins to flow at a stag night, doubt and anxieties develop Directed by Delbert Mann (Teletext) (523553). Ends at **3.00**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am [illegible] (97713) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8102[illegible]) **9.20** Love Connection (9331978) [illegible] Oprah Winfrey (1752864) **10.40** Jeop[illegible] (2317978) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9618510) **12.00** Beechy (61688) **1.00pm** Hotel (70336) **2.00** Geraldo (4142[illegible]) **3.00** Court TV (6510) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (5270626) **4.15** Undun (9827775) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7862) **6.00** The Simpsons (4881) **6.30** Jeopardy! (5133) **7.00** LAPD (8591) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1317) **8.00** 3rd Rock from the Sun (4539) **8.30** Jimmy's (3046) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (20355) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (23442) **11.00** Melrose Place (74249) **12.00** Late Show (7859534) **12.45am** Civil Wars (5826832) **1.30** Anything But Love (26350) **2.00** Hit Mix (9505260)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
9.30am Century (46171) **10.30** ABC Nightline (21572) **1.30pm** CBS News (97317) **2.30** Parliament (53084) **3.30** The Lords (3539) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (38775) **7.30** Sportsline (14997) **8.30** Entertainment (1688) **11.30** CBS News (75249) **12.30am** ABC World News (62640) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (51805) **2.20** Worldwide Report (73602) **3.30** The Lords (85447) **4.30** CBS News (90292) **5.30** ABC World News (29263

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Big Sky (1952) (45084) **8.00 The Girl Most Likely (1957)** (32775) **10.00 Visions of Terror (1994)** (86997) **12.00 Author! Author! (1982)** (55626) **2.00pm The Viking Queen (1967)** (14794) **4.00 The Long Ride (1984)** (2794) **6.00 The Sandlot (1993)** (94830) **8.00 Car 54, Where Are You? (1994)** (61125) **10.00 When the Bough Breaks (1993)** (707713) **11.45 Bullet in the Head (1990)** (41987959) **2.00 Where the Rivers Flow North (1993)** (295088) **3.55 The Mummy Lives (1993)** (80272534)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Letter (1940) (4336) **6.00 ... and God Created Woman (1956)** (76572) **8.00 Baby Boom (1987)** (86317) **10.00 Cobra (1986)** (779065) **11.35 The Verdict (1982)** (70608404) **1.45-3.20am The Mummy's Shroud (1966)** (654282)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (1938) (43626) **8.00 Avalanche (1975)** (87997) **9.00 Aladdin (1993)** (72978) **10.00 I See Ice (1938)** (84539) **12.00 It's Only Money (1962)** (53268) **2.00pm Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (1938)** (12336) **4.00 Avalanche (1975)** (72220) **5.00 Aladdin (1993)** (4012) **6.00 Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter (1994)** (64959) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (7355) **8.00 Clear and Present Danger (1994)** (56080404) **10.20 The Fugitive (1993)** (85236201) **12.30am Sleep with Me (1994)** (77669) **2.00 Dead of Winter (1987)** (957319) **3.45 Escape from Terror: The Teresa Stamper Story (1994)** (25843737)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Muppet Babies (49037607) **6.30** Winnie the Pooh (49465510) **7.00** Ducktales (10801249) **7.30** Quack Attack (10813084) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (93082959) **8.30** Wonderland (93074930) **9.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (93098510) **9.30** Fraggle Rock (95485779) **10.00** Muppet Babies (49456862) **10.30** Pooh Corner (93094794) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (42483794) **11.30** Dumbo's Circus (42464423) **12.00** Disney (16636012) **1.00pm** FILM Bachelor Knight (49047084) **2.30** Under the Umbrella Tree (80037152) **3.00** Winnie the Pooh (87348084) **3.30** Ducktales (80049997) **4.00** Quack Attack (80028404) **4.30** Chip n' Dale (80024688) **5.00** Cyberstar (84372274) **6.30** Flipper (37557713) **7.30** Hollywood Lives (80025317) **8.00** FILM: Pals (69536404) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (15285571)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Olympic Magazine (26020) **8.00** Motorcycling Magazine (14317) **8.30** Motors (21423) **9.30** Live Tennis (672539) **12.00** Live Formula 1 (57510) **1.00pm** Live Tennis (2611864) **4.30** Mountainbike (1572) **5.00** Ice Hockey (5046) **6.00** Formula 1 (53794) **7.00** Live Ice Hockey (858862) **9.30** Formula 1 (53713) **10.30** Tennis (19688) **11.30-12.30am** International Motorsports Report (29161)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (58107) **7.30** Wrestling (68220) **8.30** Racing (11220) **9.00** Aerobics (26012) **9.30** Rugby Club (68317) *10.30 Formula 3 Racing (6538201)* **10.55** Cricket: Warwickshire v Leicestershire — Live (23065) **7.00** Sports Centre (60997) **8.00** Ringside Boxing (88188572) **9.55** Sports Centre (816626) **10.00** Cricket: Warwickshire v Leicestershire (12862) **12.00** Sports Centre (70008) **1.00am** Ringside Boxing (45008) **2.00-3.00** American Football (48027)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm American Football Preview (9786572) **8.00** Wrestling (9785220) **9.00** US PGA Golf Greater Greens Boro Open — Live (9705607) **11.00-1.00am** World Championship of Golf (3021249)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** The Cutting Edge of Destiny with Wayne Malcolm **5.00** Voice of Victory with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** Reformers and Revivalists

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (8339423) **7.55** *As the World Turns (1919355)* **8.50** Peyton Place (3061268) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (6886733) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3667572)

SKY TRAVEL

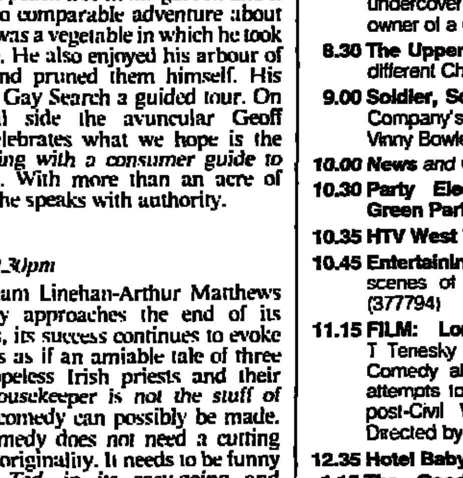
11.00am Globetrotter (7442065) **11.30** America's Great Outdoors (8200862) **12.30pm** Spirit of Life (1832220) **1.00** Getaway (3661171) **1.30** Great Escapes (1831591) **2.00** E Report (4799355) **2.30** Cruising the Globe (5202201) **3.00** Globetrotter (4778862) **3.30** Around the World (7981084) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (10960510)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons of War (7433317) **5.00** Mysteries of the Bible (4792442) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1857539)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Six Million Dollar Man (9351089) **2.00** FILM: Captain Kronos: Vampire Hunter (6546027) **3.35-4.00** Bionic Six (32627911)



Newman, Rampling in *The Verdict* (Sky Movies Gold 11.35pm)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3534065) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (1407220) **10.00** Stagestruck (4483404) **10.30** Our House (3530249) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7615317) **11.30** Craftwise (7616046) **12.00** Julia Child (3514201) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1418336) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1561959) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1417607) **2.00** Our House (8955133) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders Special (6820084) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8974268) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6892201)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1564046) **7.30** Neighbours *(1578881)* **8.00** *Sons and Daughters* (3513572) **8.30** EastEnders (3545171) **9.00** The Bill (3536423) **9.30** The Sullivans (1416978) **10.00** Bergerac (1572065) **11.00** Bullseye (7617775) **11.30** Odd One Out (9601862) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (2320S539) **12.30** Neighbours (1410794) **1.00** EastEnders (4952881) **1.35** Sykes (3289626) **2.15** The Liver Birds (3912171) **2.50** Terry and June (3656930) **3.30** The Bill (6801959) **4.00** Minder (7631355) **5.00** Every Second Counts (8706323) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (9394355) **6.25** EastEnders (9583171) **7.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (4318201) **8.00** Bullseye (8977355) **8.30** To the Manor Born (8956862) **9.00** Lytton's Diary (4345713) **10.00** The Bill (2416317) **10.35** *Filthy, Rich and Catflap (2077268)* **11.15** FILM Film: The Sure Thing (2274572) **1.10am** Carrott Confidential (1298114) **2.00-3.00** Shopping (1037911)

TCC

6.00am Pugwall (50794) **6.30** Degrassi Junior High (78626) **7.00** Ready or Not (61643) **7.30** California Dreams (89220) **8.00** Byker Grove (56317) **8.30** Saved by the Bell (55688) **9.00** Pink Panther (79268) **9.30** Garfield and Friends (83959) **10.00** Eek the Cat (69978) **10.30** Creepy Crawlers (68152) **11.00** Casper and Friends (52404) **11.30** Dinobabies (53133) **12.00** Barney and Friends (59404) **12.30pm** Tiny and Crew (78220) **1.30** Sesame Street (86249) **2.30** Tiny and Crew (1152) **3.00** Eek the Cat (6794) **3.30** Pink Panther (3997) **4.00** California Dreams (2404) **4.30-5.00** Saved by the Bell (8688)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (67572) **7.00** Killer Tomatoes (58189) **7.30** Pet Shop (11794) **8.00** Wishbone (10591) **8.30** Rude Dog (19882) **9.00** Biker Mice (33442) **9.30** Clarissa (47133) **10.00** Rugrats (84152) **10.30** Real Monsters (39626) **11.00** Rocko (16688) **11.30** Doug (17317) **12.00** Sister Sister (20978) **12.30pm** Pete & Pete (58249) **1.00** Capital Critters (91930) **1.30** Pet Shop (40220) **2.00** Wishbone (8133) **2.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (7510) **3.00** Count Duckula (7268) **3.30** Mighty Max (9355) **4.00** Tales of the Cryptkeeper (8862) **4.30** Rugrats (4046) **5.00** Sister Sister (2713) **5.30** Odyssey II (8626) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (5539) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (9591)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6811336) **4.30** Human-Nature (6800220) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (8979713) **5.30** Voyager (6891572) *6.00 Ambulance! (6821713) 6.30 Beyond* 2000 (9518959) **7.30** Mysteries Magic and Miracles (6818249) **8.00** Jurassica 2 (4323591) **9.00** American Justice Files (4343355) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4346442) **11.00-12.00** The Sexual Imperative (1571336)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM The Hideous Sun Demon (9813336) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (1404133) **2.00** Return of the Saint (4489959) **3.00** Danger Man (7614688) **4.00** FILM: Take This Job and Shove It (8965510) *6.00 Danger Man (6825539)* **6.30** The Gossip Show (9538713) **7.30** Weekly World News (6805775) **8.00** Return of the Saint (4327317) **9.00** UFO (4330881) **10.00-12.00** FILM The Best of Times (7613959)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (9249) **7.30** Entertainment (5775) **8.00** Due South (44959) **9.00** Soap (29152) **9.30** Taxi (61713) **10.00** Frasier (21607) **10.30** Frontline 2 (30355) **11.00** Bob (31997) **11.30** Dr Katz (80336) **12.00** The Vacant Lot (64350) **12.30am** Benson (24244) **1.00** Wings (20602) **1.30** Laverne & Shirley (77008) **2.00** Entertainment (64621) **2.30** Frontline 2 (83756) **3.00** Bob (40466) **3.30-4.00** Dr Katz (74008)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5544171) **7.00** Esther (4739713) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (4546978) **8.30** Gardeners' World (8344046) **9.00** Masterchef 92 (8366591) **9.35** Kate & Allie (8864201) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (8354626) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8830591) **11.55** Food and Drink (4649152) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (9111336) **1.25** Crosswits (6481794) **2.00** Agony Hour (2144775) **3.00** Live at Three (6429249) **4.00** Infatuation UK (2079930) **4.30** Crosswits (3773268) **5.05** Lingo (28596882) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2099794) **6.00** Bewitched (2096607) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (6777171) **7.05** A Taste of Japan (9708797) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (6630539) **8.05** Street Legal (9051355) **9.00** FILM Fatal Judgment (79894713) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (3578862) **11.00-12.00** Sex Files II (4715133)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Road to Avonlea (7046) **6.00** Batman (2881) **6.30** Catchphrase (3133) **7.00** *Trivial Pursuit (8775)* **7.30** Jake and the Kid (63201) **8.30** Duty Free (6930) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Wolf to the Slaughter (26369) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (75846) **11.00** Sirens (86133) **12.00** Jake and the Kid (14466) **1.00am** Batman (99756) **1.30** All Together Now (13824) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (17737) **2.30** Sirens (62534) **3.30** All Together Now (10824) **4.00** Road to Avonlea (51331)

MTV

7.30am The Pulse (98978) **8.00** Morning Mix Featuring Cinematic (522220) **11.00** *Dance Floor Chart (59846)* **12.00** *Greatest Hits* (62828) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (42201) **3.00** Select MTV (66607) **4.00** Hanging Out (25510) **5.30** Dial MTV (4626) **6.00** Soap Dish (1539) **6.30** MTV News (5591) **7.00** Dance Floor Chart (25323) **8.00** Evening Mix (21794) **9.30** Amour (71133) **10.30** Singled Out (78539) **11.00** Party Zone (34930) **1.00** Videos (1808669) **5.00** Morning Mix (55843)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast **9.00** Cafe VH-1 **12.00** Heart and Soul **1.00pm** Vinyl Years **2.00** Kim Wilde **3.00** Into the Music **6.00** Happy Hour **7.00** VH-1 for You **8.00** Beat Club '80s **8.30** Weekend Review **9.00** Chris Isaak **10.00** Vinyl Years **11.00** Around and Around **12.00** Nightly Rocks

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (46380201) **7.30** Zee Presents (37773997) **9.00** Shri Krishna (26479152) **9.30** High Life (25827713) **10.00** Banegi Apni Baat (38122794) **10.30** Urdu Serial: Aahat (22806688) **11.30** Tamil Movie (29598143) **2.30pm** Bunyaad (83261607) **3.00** Bharat Ek Khoj (68311775) **4.00** Video Junction (83252959) **4.30** Khel Time (83274171) **5.00** Zee Zone (27199959) **5.30** It's My Show (83265423) **6.00** Zabaan Sambhal ke (83262336) **6.30** Zee & U (83253688) **7.00** BBCD (27102423) **7.30** Namaste India (83242572) **8.00** News (27111171) **8.30** Antakshari (27107978) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM: Paandav (29638539)

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am to 7pm on satellite, 24 hours on cable,** including **5pm** Dance Ranch **6-7pm** Big Ticket

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm WCW Nitro on TNT (Where the Big Boys Play! (85505084) **8.00 Grand Prix (1966)** (10863688) **11.00 All the Marbles (1981)** (95846775) **12.55am The Teahouse of the August Moon (1956)** (92930737) **3.00-5.00 Hysteria (1965)** (47654756)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm James Morrison **8.00** Britten's *Peter Grimes* from the Royal Opera House **10.30** Hadyn — *Missa Sanctea Caeciliae* **12.00-1.00am** Joe Zawinul Solo

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6.05am Question Time **9.30** Madhur Jaffrey's Far Eastern Cookery **10.30** One Foot in the Past **1.15pm** Heart of the Matter **2.15** World Business Report **2.30** Newshour Asia and Pacific **3.30** Tomorrow's World **4.05** Question Time **5.30** Holiday **6.05** *Question Time* **9.30** *Film '96* **12.10am** Newsnight **1.20** Britain in View **2.10** Newsnight **3.20** Window on Europe **4.05** Correspondent

SELECTV

5.00pm Birds of a Feather **5.30** All Together Now **6.00** Hey Dad **6.30** In Loving Memory **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** Duty Free **9.00** Pie in the Sky **10.00** Lovejoy **11.00** Tales of the Unexpected **11.30-12.00** Boxing

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FRIDAY APRIL 26 1996

Ince embodies new approach

Venables puts faith in his flexible friends

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

THE meter is running and England have six weeks to turn the missed opportunities of Wednesday night into goals come the kick-off of the European championship at Wembley on June 8. "We haven't got long," Terry Venables, the coach, reflected after the game against Croatia on Wednesday, England's third goalless draw in six matches, "but I'm not unhappy where we've got to ... creating at this level is the difficulty. We had five clear chances against Croatia, and we will score, I'm convinced of that."

His conviction has to be strong. He has withstood almost two years of scepticism over his attempts, now coming into bud, to turn Englishmen into continental footballers. When, however, he says: "We just have to finish things off, it will be all right," it still demands a spectacular leap of faith.

For, on Wednesday night, there were five teams representing Great Britain and Ireland: none won, only Northern Ireland scored a goal, and still we keep telling ourselves that England's league is the best, and our goalscorers are dynamite.

Robbie Fowler awoke yesterday to a strange contrast in headlines. On one page, he could read that he is allegedly the subject of a £10 million bid from Johan Cruyff at Barcelona, this to go with the also reported £7 million new boot deal to be laid at his feet in the summer. On the other page, the same scribes who deified him on Tuesday were damning him for his brace of missed chances against Croatia.

Yet it was behind the profligate Fowler that England's real engagement became fascinating. We really did see that Venables's vision of asking players to step outside the blinkered mould of English play could work. Asking defenders to step into midfield, or forwards and midfield players to step back into defence, has been rather like inviting sighted men to read Braille. It can be done, but takes time and effort.

Venables has devoted that time and, on Wednesday, we saw how, little by little, things are transforming. Two players in particular, Paul Ince and Steve McManaman, performed duties alien to their instincts. Not only did McManaman forsake the freedom of Liverpool to stay wide on the left, but he also did as functional a job as Stone on the other flank of "tracking" back like born defenders to harass opponents. This they had to do with a three-man defence behind them.

Even more imposing has been the form of Ince in the two matches since his recall. Dropped after irrepressibly charging forward more than a year ago, Ince has performed deeper and deeper, becoming, at times, not only the anchor but also an auxiliary centre back, when the occasion demands it.

"People talk about this 'Guv'nor' thing," Venables said. "If ever a position in a team needs a special player, it's the one I want from Paul now — and he can do it. If the opposition play two up, we need only three at the back: if they push three up, he's got to play centre half. Whatever he wants to do, he can do. He's been a little bit of a worrier, uptight about the demands, but you could see that in all of them 18 months ago."

In Ince's conversion, we get the personification of England's attempt to marry a tactical awareness to the bludgeoning power, the physical directness that, coming from the flanks, still palpably bothers foreign teams. The race against time is there in the England camp, and also outside it where Venables has named May 8 as the deadline for the likes of Tony Adams, Steve Howey and Gareth Southgate to prove their fitness for the European championship.

England have three games to fine-tune their approach, the Wembley date with Hungary on May 15, and then the sojourn to China and Hong Kong, returning with barely time to readimatise for the championship itself.

The coach believes that England's course is properly set. Some committed Croatians wonder if their curve is beginning to dip: as the bitterness of the Balkans War recedes, perhaps the drive and fervour of their team drops with it, but there may be an organisational reason for the chances that they offered England on Wednesday.

Until Croatia qualified, they had two coaches, Tomislav Ivic, the director of coaching, and Miroslav Blazevic, the team coach. The first believed in order, the second in liberty. They quarrelled, Ivic publicly stating: "We have great players, but we do not have a great team. They need to work more, practise more." Ivic was dismissed and, on Wednesday, Blazevic indulged three of his players, notably Zvonimir Boban, the half-fit captain, who wanted to play at Wembley.

England's indulgence, of another kind, entails the trip to the Orient. Venables goes on a reconnaissance mission to Peking next week to inspect the playing surface at the Worker Stadium where, last summer, David Seaman, playing for Arsenal, broke an ankle in a pot hole. There is a clause in the contract that says that England will not visit if the pitch is not safe, and Venables insists that he will exercise it if there is the slightest doubt.

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Brown gets in some last minute training before her appearance in the UK Living women's FA Cup final on Sunday. Photographs: Chris Harris

Record-breaker Brown finds secret of catching them young

Sarah Forde meets the teenager who is hoping to pass her biggest test with flying colours

RACHEL BROWN'S appearance in the UK Living women's FA Cup final on Sunday is just the start of a momentous few weeks for her — nine days later, the Liverpool goalkeeper takes the first of her GCSE examinations. Instead of mugging up on history, Brown will be making it by playing in the final against Croydon at the New Den at the age of 15.

Paul Allen became the youngest modern-day FA Cup finalist with his appearance for West Ham United in the 1980 final, but next to Brown he was almost a seasoned veteran. She is a year and 311 days younger than Allen was when he faced Arsenal and was denied a fairy-tale goal by an infamous crude tackle by Willie Young.

Allen went on to play for Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton and, this weekend, will be celebrating after helping Swindon Town to win the Endsleigh League second division championship. If Liverpool overcome Croydon, Brown's celebrations will be muted by the thought of those exam dates just around the corner.

An invitation to join the women's England squad at Bisham Abbey preparing for the European championship qualifying game against Portugal has had to be declined. She must return to St Christopher's High School in Accrington to sit the first of ten GCSEs.

The final appearance represents the end of a remarkable year of progress for Brown. Last season, she played for Accrington Stanley in the backwater of the third division of the North West regional league. "Anyone who wanted to play football could play for our team, even if they could hardly kick a ball," she said. "So I got a lot of goalkeeping practice."

Visits to goalkeeping schools run by Bob Wilson, the former Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper, were the key to her rise. She has been the only girl attending courses for the past three years and Mick Payne, a coach at the school, advised her that a move to a premier national division club would allow her talent to blossom.

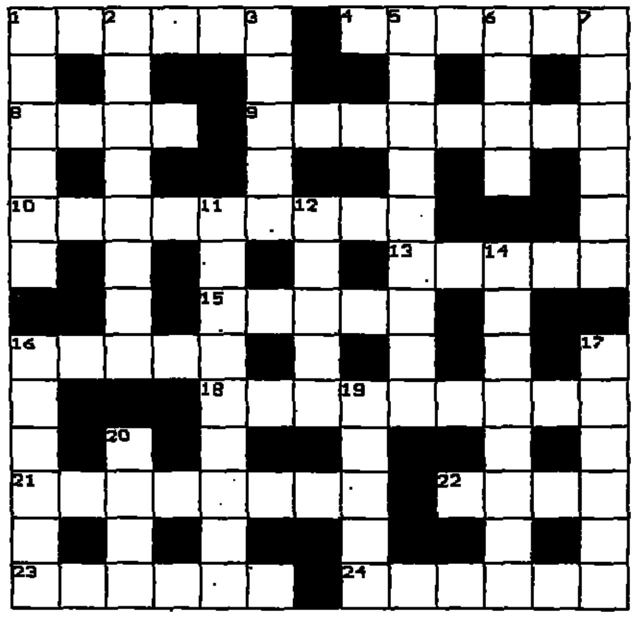
Liverpool were the lucky benefactors of that advice and the retirement of Tracey Davidson, their regular goalkeeper, offered Brown an early first team opportunity. A six goal drubbing at the hands of Arsenal in her first game did not daunt her and she exacted full revenge with an assured peformance against the same opposition in the cup semi-final.

Her progress has led to three training sessions with the England squad and a kit sponsorship deal with All Sports, which will be signed alongside Tim Flowers, another of the company's signings, at Ewood Park today. Graham Keeley, the England women's goalkeeping coach, describes Brown as one for the future.

"Her basic handling skills are very good, she catches everything," Brown said. "If anything, she's a bit quiet, but, with more experience and confidence, she'll be happily barking instructions to the older players."

The match on Sunday will, though, offer her sternest test yet. "I'll be nervous," she said. "I get nervous for every match, but, on Sunday, I'll have butterflies everywhere."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 766

ACROSS
1 Playing well (2,4); tell (6)
4 With sharp, uneven edge (6)
8 Layer; one fastening (4)
9 Integral/differential technique (8)
10 Not competent (9)
13 Brief moment (5)
15 Relieve; calm (suspicions) (5)
16 An Earl; a Firth; an eel (5)
18 Apiarist (3-6)
21 Passed through strainer (8)
22 Ill-disciplined child (4)
23 Quality of tone colour (6)
24 Poor-quality (material) (6)

DOWN
1 Realise instinctively (6)
2 Arrow-maker; Beaumont collaborator (8)
3 Holy city of Arabia (5)
5 Pattern; original, perfect specimen (9)
6 Seabird; deceive (4)
7 Have longing for (6)
11 Handle spontaneously; (*mus.*) repeat as heard (4,2,3)
12 Swelling; 1944 Battle (5)
14 Divinely guided; very clever (guess) (8)
16 One in unsuitable place (6)
17 Attractive; rather (6)
19 Acclaim, cachet (5)
20 Fruit; sounds like *vertical line* (4)

The solution to 765 will be published Wednesday, May 1

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Openers hold key to tactical challenge

By Simon Wilde

MARCH 17, 1996, could prove a significant date in cricket history. On that day, Sri Lanka won the World Cup and, by dint of the brilliant and original way that they took advantage of the fielding restrictions at the start of their innings throughout the tournament, caused a complete revision of strategy for the limited-overs game.

That is why county cricketers and coaches have spent the intervening six weeks burning the midnight oil in preparation for the start, today, of the Benson and Hedges Cup, which, for the first time, will be played under the rules in force during the World Cup.

The effects are already apparent. Pre-season practice matches that, in the past, were conducted gingerly, have been played at a frenetic pace as teams have searched for their nearest equivalents to Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana.

Those who think little of the talent within the county game should have been at Hove last week, when Sussex and Surrey met in two Benson and Hedges Cup mock-ups. In one match, Sussex scored 405 and conceded 350; in the other, Surrey totalled 390, Sussex replying with 240. One boundary was, admittedly, short, but nevertheless this was scoring on a new scale.

In each of the four innings, the batting side was well past 100 by the end of the fifteenth over, when the restriction limiting to two the number of fieldsmen permitted outside the "ring" ends. At the same stage in the past, they would have settled for 50 for one.

Sussex's opening pair were Martin Speight and Bill Athey. Speight is a well-known dasher and relished the challenge. More interestingly, so did Athey, who is a renowned blocker and has been criticised in the past for not playing freely.

In Surrey's victory, Alistair Brown launched them with a spectacular century, his third in four pre-season outings. Last season, he was dropped for batting too flamboyantly; there is little chance of that happening this year. He, along with countless others — such as Nick Knight and Neil Smith, of Warwickshire, who took full advantage of the new regulations during a fixture with British Universities on Wednesday — have been given licences to thrill.

"We are going to see some pretty extraordinary cricket," David Gilbert, the Surrey coach, said. "I'm thrilled at the way the game is going.

"One-day cricket had become dreadfully predictable, but the Sri Lankans have come in and shown everyone that anything is possible. For the strategy to work, the pitch must be a good one. It is no good trying to hit out from the start if the ball is going sideways."

One of the reasons that England fared so badly at the World Cup was that, though they shuffled opening partners, they never got away to a fast enough start.

The real challenge of the restriction on fielders is not to the batsmen, but to the bowlers. Should a fielding side aim at containment or taking wickets? Gilbert favours containment. "I think you will see bowlers being a lot more defensive, bowling in a way you would normally associate with the last ten overs of the innings," he said. "They will be firing it in at the blockhole."

Daryl Foster, the coach at Kent, the runners-up in the Benson and Hedges Cup last year, would prefer his bowlers to attack. "We have had lots of talks about strategy," he said. "Should we open with a spinner, for instance. The first 15 overs is a great opportunity to take two or three wickets, but to do that you must retain a slip and a gully throughout. That's the way I think we will be approaching it."

The teams that do well will be the ones that adapt most readily to the new format. "It is going to require a change of thinking among the batsman and the bowlers," Andy Stovold, the Gloucestershire coach, said. "It will be no good playing the game the traditional Benson and Hedges Cup way."

Woe betide any spectator who arrives an hour late. He or she may miss the best entertainment of the day.

Alan Lee's county prospects for the new season 44

BSkyB in move to fund new tournament

By David Hands
and Mark Souster

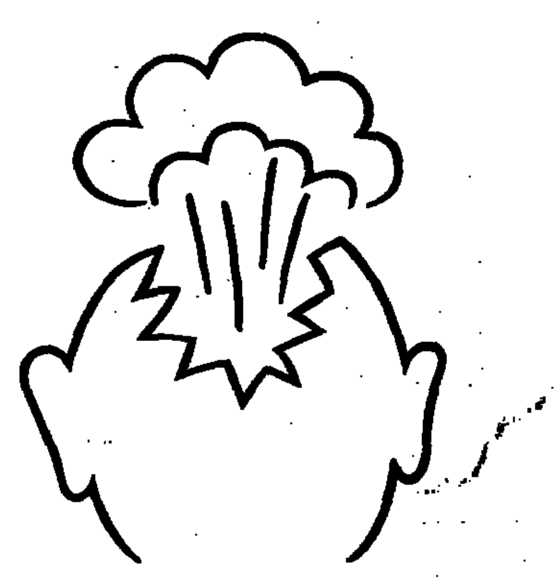
IF THE home rugby unions required further evidence of the financial support available to their restless clubs, they received it after a meeting on Wednesday night between Scotland's leading clubs and their counterparts from England and Wales.

Melrose, Stirling County and either Boroughmuir or Watsonians would benefit by £2,865,000 over five years as part of the deal proposed by BSkyB, the satellite television company 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. The same funding would be available to the 20 teams from the five nations taking part in the premier competition of a two-tier European tournament that the clubs seek to run themselves.

Keith Robertson, the chief executive of Scottish First Division Rugby Ltd, stressed that the clubs seek to stay part of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), with whom he hopes to meet soon. "This whole thing stems from England," Fred McLeod, the SRU's senior vice-president, said yesterday. "I hope our clubs are not being led down a road which they will regret."

Meanwhile, Wasps are expected to announce today two significant signings, both English, and the flotation of the club as a public limited company. They have been linked with Simon Shaw, the England A lock from Bristol, while Bristol themselves are in discussion with Paul Burke, the Ireland stand-off half.

MORSE



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